Art & Culture

DAILY PRACTICE 28/11/2026 · UPSC CSE · Art & Culture

Q1.

Hero stones, frequently found in different parts of South India, primarily represent which of the following historical practices?

A. Commemoration of warriors who died displaying bravery

B. Granting of land to religious institutions

C. Construction of memorials for deceased royal families

D. Recording trade agreements between merchant guilds

Correct answer: Option A — Commemoration of warriors who died displaying bravery

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Hero stones commemorated individuals who died displaying courage, particularly in battles or while protecting their community.

1. **Commemorative purpose:** Hero stones, also known as *Veeragallu* in Kannada, were erected in memory of individuals who died heroic deaths.
2. **Iconography:** They often depict battle scenes, warriors, weapons and episodes associated with the hero's death.

3. **Inscriptions:** Inscriptions on these stones provide information about local conflicts, social customs, political authority and regional history.
4. **Historical significance:** Their study helps reconstruct aspects of medieval society, including warfare, social values and local traditions.

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Q2.

Karthigai Deepam, celebrated at the Thiruparankundram hill in Tamil Nadu, is primarily associated with which of the following religious traditions?

A. Worship of Lord Murugan and the lighting of a sacred flame

B. Worship of Lord Jagannath through the Rath Yatra

C. Celebration of the birth of Lord Krishna through Janmashtami

D. Worship of the Sun God through Chhath rituals

Correct answer: Option A — Worship of Lord Murugan and the lighting of a sacred flame

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Worship of Lord Murugan and the lighting of a sacred flame.

1. **Religious significance:** Karthigai Deepam is an important Tamil Hindu festival associated with the lighting of lamps and the divine light.
2. **Lord Murugan:** Thiruparankundram, near Madurai, is an important pilgrimage site associated with Lord Murugan and is traditionally recognised as one of his six sacred abodes (Arupadai Veedu).
3. **Ritual:** Lighting a large sacred flame symbolises divine presence and the triumph of light over darkness.
4. **Cultural significance:** The festival reflects Tamil religious traditions, community participation and devotional practices.

Q3.

The proposed Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum aims to transform the presentation of India's historical and cultural heritage. Which of the following approaches best represents the principles of contemporary museology?

A. Presenting historical objects primarily in chronological order without providing social or cultural context.

B. Restricting museum narratives to political history and achievements of ruling dynasties.

C. Combining conservation of artefacts with inclusive interpretation, regional representation and interactive learning experiences.

D. Replacing original historical artefacts entirely with digital reproductions to improve visitor engagement.

Correct answer: Option C — Combining conservation of artefacts with inclusive interpretation, regional representation and interactive learning experiences.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Contemporary museology combines conservation, interpretation and public engagement.

1. **Conservation:** Museums preserve, document and scientifically maintain tangible cultural heritage.

2. **Inclusive interpretation:** Museum narratives should represent diverse communities, regions, traditions and historical experiences.
3. **Interactive learning:** Digital technologies, immersive displays and educational programmes can improve public engagement.
4. **Authenticity:** Digital reproductions can complement original collections but cannot completely replace the importance of conserving and interpreting authentic artefacts.

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Q4.

The Dalai Lama's Gaden Phodrang Trust is associated with the institutional and administrative arrangements of the Dalai Lama. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. The Dalai Lama institution has historical roots in Tibetan Buddhism.
2. The Gaden Phodrang Trust is associated with the preservation of the Dalai Lama's legacy and institutional activities.
3. The Dalai Lama is the constitutional head of the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option A — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The Dalai Lama institution developed within the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism and has religious and historical significance.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The Gaden Phodrang Trust is associated with the Dalai Lama's institutional and administrative affairs.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Dalai Lama is not the constitutional head of the Tibet Autonomous Region, which is administered under the political system of the People's Republic of China.

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Q5.

With reference to the Sikh Gurus and the development of Sikhism, consider the following statements:

1. Guru Nanak Dev founded the Sikh faith and emphasised devotion, equality and service.
2. Guru Arjan Dev compiled the Adi Granth, the foundational scripture of Sikhism.
3. Guru Gobind Singh founded the Khalsa in 1699 at Anandpur Sahib.
4. Guru Gobind Singh declared the Adi Granth as the eternal Guru of the Sikhs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

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

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — All four statements are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Guru Nanak Dev founded Sikhism and taught the principles of devotion, equality, honest work and sharing.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Guru Arjan Dev compiled the Adi Granth in 1604.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa in 1699 at Anandpur Sahib on Baisakhi.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** In 1708, Guru Gobind Singh conferred eternal Guruship upon the Guru Granth Sahib, ending the line of human Gurus.

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Q6.

With reference to the teachings and institutions associated with Guru Nanak Dev, consider the following pairs:

Concept	Associated principle
1. Naam Japna	Remembrance of the Divine
2. Kirat Karni	Earning a livelihood through honest work
3. Vand Chakna	Sharing one's earnings and resources with others
4. Langar	A ritual meal restricted to members of a particular social group

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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A. Only one

B. Only two

C. Only three

D. All four

Correct answer: Option C — Only three

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Only three pairs are correctly matched

1. **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Naam Japna emphasises remembering and meditating upon the Divine.
2. **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Kirat Karni advocates earning through honest and ethical labour.
3. **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Vand Chakna promotes sharing with others, particularly those in need.

4. **Pair 4 is incorrectly matched:** Langar is a community kitchen where meals are served to all without discrimination based on caste, religion, gender or social status.

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Q7.

With reference to the Ramayana tradition and India-Nepal cultural relations, consider the following pairs:

Place	Cultural or religious association
1. Janakpur	Associated with Mata Sita
2. Ayodhya	Associated with Lord Rama
3. Lumbini	Birthplace of Gautama Buddha
4. Pashupatinath	Important Shaivite pilgrimage site

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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A. Only one

B. Only two

C. Only three

D. All four

Correct answer: Option D — All four

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — All four

1. **Pair 1 is correct:** Janakpur in Nepal is traditionally associated with the birthplace of Mata Sita and is an important centre of Ramayana-related pilgrimage.

2. **Pair 2 is correct:** Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh is traditionally regarded as the birthplace of Lord Rama.
3. **Pair 3 is correct:** Lumbini in Nepal is recognised as the birthplace of Gautama Buddha.
4. **Pair 4 is correct:** Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu is one of the most significant Shaivite pilgrimage centres dedicated to Lord Shiva.

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Q8.

In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs:

Term	Description
1. Eripatti	Land, revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank
2. Taniyurs	Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins
3. Ghatikas	Colleges generally attached to the temples

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

A. 1 and 2

B. 3 only

C. 2 and 3

D. 1 and 3

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Correct answer: Option D — 1 and 3

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — 1 and 3 only

1. **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Eripatti referred to land whose revenue was earmarked for maintaining village tanks.

2. **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Taniyurs were large villages or administrative units with a distinct status. Land or villages donated to Brahmins were generally known as Brahmadeya.

3. **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Ghatikas were educational institutions, often attached to temples, particularly in South India.

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Q9.

A movie titled *The Man Who Knew Infinity* is based on the biography of:

A. S. Ramanujan

B. S. Chandrasekhar

C. S. N. Bose

D. C. V. Raman

Correct answer: Option A — S. Ramanujan

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — S. Ramanujan

- The film is based on the life of **Srinivasa Ramanujan**, the renowned Indian mathematician.
- He made significant contributions to number theory, infinite series and mathematical analysis.
- His collaboration with British mathematician G. H. Hardy at Cambridge is a central theme of the film.

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Q10.

What is/are common to the two historical places known as Ajanta and Mahabalipuram?

1. Both were built during the same period.
2. Both belong to the same religious denomination.
3. Both have rock-cut monuments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. None of the statements given above is correct.

Correct answer: Option B — 3 only

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Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — 3 only

1. **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Ajanta's caves were developed over different periods, mainly from the 2nd century BCE to the 6th century CE, whereas Mahabalipuram's major monuments largely belong to the Pallava period.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Ajanta is primarily associated with Buddhism, while Mahabalipuram has monuments associated with Hindu traditions.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Both sites contain remarkable rock-cut monuments and architectural works.

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