

### Ancient History: 2024

**Q-1. With reference to ancient India, Gautama Buddha was generally known by which of the following epithets?**

1. Nayaputta
2. Shakyamuni
3. Tathagata

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None of the above are epithets of Gautama Buddha

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Nayaputta:** Mahavira was born as **Vardhamana in the Naya (Nath) clan**, hence the title "**Nayaputta**" (son of the Naya clan) was given to him.
- **Shakyamuni:** "Shakyamuni" means "**Sage of the Shakyas**." Gautama Buddha was born as **Siddhartha in the Shakya clan** and after his enlightenment, he was given the title of **Shakyamuni**.
- **Tathagata:** "Tathagata" signifies one who has **transcended the ordinary existence of the world**, either in **arriving at the truth (thus come)** or in **passing beyond the cycle of birth and death (thus gone)**. This title emphasises the **Buddha's attainment of enlightenment** and his **unique position as a fully awakened being**.

Therefore, the correct answer is (b).

**Q-2. Sanghabhuti, an Indian Buddhist monk, who travelled to China at the end of the fourth century AD, was the author of a commentary on:**

- (a) Prajnaparamita Sutra
- (b) Visuddhimagga.
- (c) Sarvastivada Vinaya
- (d) Lalitavistara

**Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:** Sanghabhuti made significant contributions in the **spread and understanding of Buddhist teachings in China**. Sanghabhuti is best known for his work on the **Sarvastivada Vinaya**, a key text outlining the **monastic rules and regulations** followed by monks of the Sarvastivada tradition. The Sarvastivada school of Buddhism held that **all phenomena exist in the past, present and future**.

Let's briefly review the other options:

- **Option (a):** Prajnaparamita Sutra is a foundational text of Mahayana Buddhism which focuses on the **concept of 'Perfection of Wisdom' (Prajnaparamita)**.
- **Option (b):** The Visuddhimagga or '**Path of Purification**', is a comprehensive manual on **Buddhist meditation and practice** written by **Buddhaghosa in the 5th century AD**. It is a cornerstone of Theravada Buddhist literature.
- **Option (d):** The **Lalitavistara Sutra** is a **Mahayana Buddhist text** that provides a semi-legendary biography of the Buddha.

Therefore, **the correct answer is (c)**.

### **Ancient History: 2023**

**Q-1. In which one of the following regions was Dhanyakataka, which flourished as a prominent Buddhist centre under the Mahasanghikas, located?**

- (a) Andhra
- (b) Gandhara
- (c) Kalinga
- (d) Magadha

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation: Dhanyakataka (Amaravati)** was located in the **Andhra region (modern-day Andhra Pradesh)** and it was a prominent **Buddhist centre under the Mahasanghikas**. The region is most renowned for the **Amaravati Stupa**.

Therefore, **the correct answer is (a)**.

**Q-2. With reference to ancient South India, Korkai, Poompuhar and Muchiri were well known as**

- (a) Capital cities
- (b) Ports
- (c) Centres of iron-and-steel making
- (d) Shrines of Jain Tirthankaras

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation: Korkai, Poompuhar, and Muchiri (Muziris)** were significant **port cities in ancient South India** which played a key role in the **region's maritime history**. These ports were integral to the trade networks that connected India with the **Roman Empire, Southeast Asia and the Arabian Peninsula**.

- **Korkai:** Located near the **southern tip of Tamil Nadu**, it was the **ancient capital of the Early Pandya Kingdom**. It was famous for its **pearl fisheries** and the pearls from Korkai were highly prized in ancient **Rome and the Mediterranean world**.

- **Poompuhar (Kaveripattinam):** It was a major port city of the **Chola dynasty** which was located at the **mouth of the Kaveri River**. The city's prominence is highlighted in the **Silappatikaram** which describes Poompuhar as a **cosmopolitan urban centre** with a rich cultural and commercial life.
- **Muchiri (Muziris):** It was a legendary port city on the **Malabar Coast of Kerala**. It served as the gateway for the **spice trade**, particularly black pepper, which was highly sought after in the **Roman Empire**. The port city is frequently mentioned in ancient texts such as **Periplus of the Erythraean Sea** and **Sangam literature**.

Therefore, the correct answer is (b).

### Ancient History: 2022

**Q-1. According to Kautilya's Arthashastra, which of the following are correct?**

1. A person could be a slave as a result of a judicial punishment.
2. If a female slave bore her master a son, she was legally free.
3. If a son born to a female slave was fathered by her master, the son was entitled to the legal status of the master's son.

**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

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is Correct:** The Arthashastra allows for a person to become a slave as a result of **judicial punishment**. In ancient Indian society, **slavery was not only an economic institution but also a legal penalty**. Individuals could be condemned to slavery as a form of punishment for various offences, **particularly those that involved debts or crimes against the state**. This form of punishment was a way to **maintain social order** and ensure that **penalties** were enforced in a manner that could also be **economically beneficial to the state or the victim's family**.

**Statement 2 is Correct:** According to the Arthashastra, if a female slave bore her master a son, she would be legally freed. This provision also served as a form of **social mobility** for the female slave, offering her a **legal route to freedom**.

**Statement 3 is Correct:** The Arthashastra also states that if a son born to a female slave was fathered by her master, the **son would be entitled to the legal status of the master's son**. This meant that the **child would have the same rights as the master's legitimate offspring**, including rights to **inheritance and social standing**.

Therefore, the correct answer is (d).

**Q-2. Consider the following pairs: Site of Ashoka's major rock edicts Location in the State of**

1. Dhauli - Odisha
2. Erragudi - Andhra Pradesh
3. Jaugada - Madhya Pradesh
4. Kalsi - Karnataka

**How many pairs given above are correctly matched?**

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

**Pair 1 is Correct: Dhauli is located in Odisha.** Dhauli is believed to be the place where Ashoka first expressed his remorse for Kalinga War's destruction. The inscriptions at Dhauli emphasise non-violence (ahimsa), moral conduct and the welfare of all beings. The site also features a rock-cut elephant which symbolises the Buddha.

**Pair 2 is Correct: Erragudi (also known as Yerragudi) is situated in Andhra Pradesh.** The edicts at Erragudi convey Ashoka's efforts to propagate the principles of dhamma across his empire, including the promotion of social harmony, tolerance and ethical governance.

**Pair 3 is Incorrect: Jaugada is not located in Madhya Pradesh; it is in Odisha.** It is an important archaeological site where Ashoka's edicts were inscribed on rocks. The inscriptions at Jaugada reflect Ashoka's policies which were aimed at ensuring justice and morality within his empire.

**Pair 4 is Incorrect: Kalsi is not located in Karnataka; it is in Uttarakhand.** It is the northernmost site of Ashoka's inscriptions, where 14 rock edicts, articulating Ashoka's vision of a moral and ethical society based on the principles of dhamma, were inscribed.

Therefore, the correct answer is (b).

**Q-3. Which one of the following statements about Sangam literature in ancient South India is correct?**

- (a) Sangam poems are devoid of any reference to material culture.
- (b) The social classification of Varna was known to Sangam poets.
- (c) Sangam poems have no reference to warrior ethic.
- (d) Sangam literature refers to magical forces as irrational.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** The concept of social classification or **Varna**, was **known** to the Sangam poets, though it was **not as rigidly defined as in the later periods of Indian history**. The Sangam texts make references to various social groups [**arasar (kings), velir (nobles), vaiyir (farmers), and kadaiyiar (laborers)**] and their roles in society, which align with the broader concept of Varna. **This reflects the societal norms of the time, where roles were defined, but not necessarily fixed as in the later caste system.**

Let's briefly review the other options:

- **Option (a):** Sangam literature, composed between approximately 300 BCE and 300 CE, is **rich in references to material culture**. For instance, the trade in precious commodities like **pearls, ivory, and spices is frequently mentioned**, showcasing a society deeply engaged in material pursuits.
- **Option (c):** Sangam literature is **deeply embedded with the warrior ethic**, which is central to its themes. For example, the Puram poems often glorify the battlefield, the bravery of the warrior class and the glory that comes from dying in battle.
- **Option (d):** Sangam literature **does not dismiss magical forces or the supernatural as irrational**. On the contrary, the texts are filled with references to gods, divine intervention and supernatural occurrences.

Therefore, **the correct answer is (b).**

**Ancient History: 2021**

**Q-1. Which one of the following ancient towns is well-known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelizing water into connected reservoirs?**

- (a) Dholavira
- (b) Kalibangan
- (c) Rakhigarhi
- (d) Ropar

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** **Dholavira (Gujarat)** is particularly well-known for its advanced and elaborate water management system (such as **dams, reservoirs, and channels**) to harvest and manage water efficiently. This system was crucial for sustaining life in the **arid region** of the Rann of Kutch. The design included **interconnected reservoirs**, some of which were used to store rainwater, while others collected water diverted from nearby seasonal streams.

Let's briefly review why other options are incorrect:

- **Option (b):** Kalibangan, located in **Rajasthan**, it is an important site of the **Indus Valley Civilization** and it is recognized for its evidence of **early agricultural practices and fire altars**.

- **Option (c):** Rakhigarhi, situated in Haryana, is one of the largest known Harappan sites.
- **Option (d):** Ropar (Rupnagar) is an archaeological site in Punjab associated with the Indus Valley Civilization.

Therefore, the correct answer is (a).

**Q-2. From the decline of Guptas until the rise of Harshavardhana in the early seventh century, which of the following kingdoms were holding power in Northern India?**

1. The Guptas of Magadha
2. The Paramaras of Malwa
3. The Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
4. The Maukharis of Kanauj
5. The Yadavas of Devagiri
6. The Maitrakas of Valabhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 5
- (b) 1, 3, 4 and 6
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 5 and 6

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

- **The Guptas of Magadha:** After the fall of the Gupta Empire, a remnant branch of the Guptas continued to rule in the region of Magadha until they were eventually overshadowed by the Maukharis and the Pushyabhutis.
- **The Paramaras of Malwa:** The Paramaras were a Rajput dynasty that became prominent in the 9th century, primarily in the region of Malwa (Central India). During the period in question – the 6th and early 7th centuries – the Paramaras were not yet established as a significant power.
- **The Pushyabhutis of Thanesar:** The Pushyabhutis were a significant dynasty during this period, with their capital at Thanesar (modern-day Haryana). The most famous ruler of this dynasty was Harshavardhana, who succeeded his brother Rajyavardhana and became one of the most powerful rulers in Northern India.
- **The Maukharis of Kanauj:** The Maukharis rose to prominence during the post-Gupta period. They initially served as feudatories under the Guptas but later established their independence and ruled from Kanauj.
- **The Yadavas of Devagiri:** The Yadavas of Devagiri were a medieval dynasty that came to prominence in the 12th century in the Deccan region of South India.
- **The Maitrakas of Valabhi:** The Maitrakas established their kingdom in Valabhi (in modern-day Gujarat) after the decline of the Gupta Empire. They played a significant role in the political fragmentation of Northern India and their kingdom

acted as a buffer state between the declining Guptas and the emerging powers in Northern and Western India.

Therefore, the correct answer is (b).

Q- 3. Consider the following pairs:

Historical place:	known for
1. Burzahom:	Rock-cut shrines
2. Chandra ketugarh:	Terracotta art
3. Ganeshwar:	Copper artefacts

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

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

**Pair 1 is Incorrect:** Burzahom, located in the Kashmir Valley of Jammu and Kashmir, is known for its Neolithic and Megalithic remains, not for rock-cut shrines. The site is significant for its evidence of ancient pit dwellings and megalithic stone structures which date back to the Neolithic period.

**Pair 2 is Correct:** Chandraketugarh, situated near Kolkata in West Bengal, is well-known for its exquisite terracotta art. The site has yielded numerous terracotta figurines, plaques, and pottery, showcasing the artistic talent of the period, especially during the Maurya and Sunga periods.

**Pair 3 is Correct:** Ganeshwar, located in Rajasthan, is a significant Chalcolithic (Copper Age) archaeological site where a large number of copper tools, weapons, and artifacts have been discovered. These findings suggest that Ganeshwar was an important center for copper production and trade during the ancient period.

Therefore, the correct answer is (d).

Q-4. With reference to the history of ancient India, Bhavabhuti, Hastimalla and Kshemeshvara were famous

- (a) Jain monks
- (b) playwrights
- (c) temple architects

(d) philosophers

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:** Bhavabhuti, Hastimalla and Kshemeshvara were prominent figures in the field of Sanskrit literature. Bhavabhuti is particularly celebrated for his plays **Malatimadhava, Mahaviracharita and Uttararamacharita** which are considered classics of ancient Indian drama.

Therefore, the correct answer is (b).

**Q-5. With reference to the history of ancient India, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Mitakshara was the civil law for upper castes and Dayabhaga was the civil law for lower castes.
2. In the Mitakshara system, the sons can claim the right to the property during the lifetime of the father whereas, in the Dayabhaga system, it is only after the death of the father that the sons can claim the right to the property.
3. The Mitakshara system deals with the matters related to the property held by male members only of a family, whereas the Dayabhaga system deals with the matters related to the property held by both male and female members of a family.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 Only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 Only

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is Incorrect:** Mitakshara and Dayabhaga system deals with both **upper and lower castes**. Mitakshara law is more widely followed across India, **including in northern and southern regions**, while Dayabhaga law is primarily followed in **Bengal and Assam**.

**Statement 2 is Correct:** In the Mitakshara system, **sons have a right to ancestral property from birth** which means that they can claim a share of the property **during their father's lifetime**. This is based on the concept of coparcenary where **the property is jointly owned by the male members of the family**. In contrast, **under the Dayabhaga system, sons do not have a right to the property during their father's lifetime**. They can only claim their share **after the father's death**.

**Statement 3 is Incorrect:** Both the Mitakshara and Dayabhaga systems deal with property matters related to **both male and female members of the family**, but they differ in how inheritance is treated. The Mitakshara system traditionally **gave more importance to male**

coparceners, while the Dayabhaga system allows for **individual ownership and inheritance**, including by female members.

Therefore, **the correct answer is (b).**

### **Ancient History: 2020**

**Q-1. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:**

1. Sthaviravadians belong to Mahayana Buddhism.
2. Lokottaravadin sect was an offshoot of Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism.
3. The deification of Buddha by Mahasanghikas fostered Mahayana Buddhism.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The Sthaviravadians belong to the Theravada branch of Buddhism, not Mahayana Buddhism. Theravada, often referred to as the "Doctrine of the Elders," is considered the **more orthodox and conservative branch** which focused on the original teachings of the Buddha. Mahayana Buddhism, on the other hand, **developed later and introduced new doctrines** such as the **concept of the Bodhisattva**.

**Statement 2 is Correct:** The Lokottaravadin sect was an offshoot of the Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism. The Mahasanghikas emphasized the **transcendental nature of the Buddha**, seeing him as a supra-mundane being. The Lokottaravadins took this idea further, **stressing the notion that the Buddha's existence and activities** were beyond ordinary human comprehension.

**Statement 3 is Correct:** The Mahasanghikas played a crucial role in the deification of the Buddha which laid the groundwork for the **development of Mahayana Buddhism**. The **Mahasanghikas' view of the Buddha** as a divine figure helped to shape the Mahayana tradition, which led the development of the **Bodhisattva ideal and the concept of multiple Buddhas**.

Therefore, **the correct answer is (b).**

**Q-2. With reference to the history of India, the terms "Kulyavapa" and "Dronavapa" denote?**

- (a) Measurement of Land
- (b) Coins of different monetary value

- (c) Classification of urban land
- (d) Religious rituals

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** The terms “Kulyavapa” and “Dronavapa” were ancient Indian units used to measure land. Kulyavapa was a practical unit that related directly to the agricultural capacity of the land, indicating how much land a particular farmer could effectively cultivate. Where as Dronavapa was an agricultural unit that described the area of land that could be sown with a "drona" of seed. These measurements helped rulers and officials determine taxation, land grants and the distribution of agricultural resources.

Thus, The correct answer is (a).

**Q-3. With reference to the period of Gupta dynasty in ancient India, the towns Ghantasala, Kadura and Chaul were well known as?**

- (a) Capital of Powerful kingdoms
- (b) Places of exquisite stone art and architecture
- (c) Ports handling foreign trade
- (d) Important Buddhist pilgrimage centres

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:** During the Gupta dynasty, India's maritime trade expanded significantly, linking the subcontinent with distant regions such as Southeast Asia, the Roman Empire, and the Arabian Peninsula. The towns of Ghantasala (Andhra Pradesh), Kadura (Maharashtra) and Chaul (Maharashtra) emerged as pivotal maritime hubs.

Thus, the correct answer is (c).

**Q-4. With reference to the cultural history of India, which one of the following is the correct description of the term “Paramitas”?**

- (a) The earliest Dharmashastra texts written in aphoristic (Sutra) style.
- (b) Powerful merchant guilds of early medieval south India.
- (c) Philosophical school that did not accept the authority of Vedas.
- (d) Perfections whose attainment led to the Bodhisattva Path.

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** The term "Paramitas" is central to Mahayana Buddhism and plays a significant role in the spiritual journey of a Bodhisattva – a being who seeks enlightenment not only for themselves but also for all sentient beings. The word "Paramita" is derived from the Sanskrit roots "param" (meaning beyond) and "ita" (meaning gone), which together suggest the idea of "perfections" or virtues that transcend ordinary human qualities.

Therefore, the correct answer is (d).

**Q-5. Consider the following events in the history of India.**

1. Rise of Pratiharas under King Bhoja.
2. Establishment of Pallava power under Mahendravarman - 1.
3. Establishment of Chola Parantaka - 1.
4. Pala dynasty founded by Gopala.

**What is the correct chronological order of the above events, starting from the earliest time?**

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

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

- **Rise of Pratiharas under King Bhoja (c. 836–885 CE):** King Bhoja I or Mihira Bhoja, was a key figure in the **Pratihara dynasty in northern India**. His reign represented the height of Pratihara power, with the establishment of a large empire in northern and central India.
- **Establishment of Pallava power under Mahendravarman I (c. 600–630 CE):** Mahendravarman I was a significant ruler of the Pallava dynasty, marking the establishment of Pallava dominance in southern India. His reign saw the beginning of the Pallavas' architectural legacy with the construction of rock-cut temples.
- **Establishment of Chola power under Parantaka I (c. 907–955 CE):** Parantaka I was a crucial ruler in the Chola dynasty who consolidated **Chola control over Tamil Nadu and neighboring regions**.
- **Pala dynasty founded by Gopala (c. 750 CE):** Gopala established the Pala dynasty in Bengal. **His election by local chiefs** marked the beginning of a powerful dynasty that would go on to become a major force in eastern India. **Palas were known for its patronage of Buddhism.**

Therefore, **the correct answer is (c).**

**Q-6. Who among the following rulers advised his subjects through this inscription?**

**“Whosoever praises his religious sect or blames other sects out of excessive devotion to his own sect, with the view of glorifying his own sect, he rather injures his own sect very severely:”**

- (a) Ashoka
- (b) Samudragupta
- (c) Harshavardhana
- (d) Krishna Deva Raya

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:** This quote is from one of the edicts of Emperor Ashoka who ruled the Mauryan Empire from **around 268 to 232 BCE**. The inscription in question reflects **Ashoka's emphasis on religious tolerance**. Ashoka understood that **religious sectarianism could lead to conflict and division** within his empire. By advising his subjects **against glorifying their own sects at the expense of others**, Ashoka sought to promote harmony among the diverse religious groups in his empire.

Therefore, **the correct answer is (a)**.

**Q-7. With reference to the scholars / Literatures of ancient India, consider the following statements:**

1. Panini is associated with Pushyamitra Shunga.
2. Amarasimha is associated with Harshavardhana.
3. Kalidasa is associated with Chandra Gupta - II.

**Which of the statements given above is / are correct?**

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

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is Incorrect:** Panini is famous for his work **Ashtadhyayi**, which is a treatise on Sanskrit grammar. He is believed to have lived during the 4th century BCE, much **before the Shunga dynasty which was established by Pushyamitra Shunga around 185 BCE**.

**Statement 2 is Incorrect:** Amarasimha was one of the **Navaratnas (nine gems) at the court of Chandragupta II, not Harshavardhana**. He is best known for his work **Amarakosha**, a thesaurus of Sanskrit, which is still a significant text for Sanskrit scholars today.

**Statement 3 is Correct:** Kalidasa is associated with **Chandragupta II** who ruled during the Gupta Empire's golden age (c. 375–415 CE). His famous works include **Abhijnanasakuntalam, Raghuvamsa, Meghaduta, Vikramorvasiyam, Kumarasambhava, Ritusamhara and Malvikagnimitram**.

Therefore, **the correct answer is (c)**.

**Q-8. With reference to the history of India, Consider the following pairs:**

Famous Place	Present State
1. Bhilsa	Madhya Pradesh
2. Dwarasamudra	Maharashtra

3. Girnagar	Gujrat
4. Sthaneshwara	Uttar Pradesh

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

**Pair 1 is Correct:** Bhilsa, now known as Vidisha, is located in Madhya Pradesh. Vidisha was a prominent center of commerce and religion. It is known for its close proximity to Sanchi where Emperor Ashoka built the famous Buddhist stupas.

**Pair 2 is Incorrect:** Dwarasamudra is not in Maharashtra but in Karnataka. It is the historical name for Halebidu which served as the capital of the Hoysala Empire in the 12th and 13th centuries.

**Pair 3 is Correct:** Girnagar, referring to the Girnar Hills, is located in Gujarat. Girnar has been an important religious site for Jains and Hindus. The hills are also linked to the legends of the Maurya dynasty, with Emperor Ashoka supposedly having visited the site.

**Pair 4 is Incorrect:** Sthaneshwara, known today as Thanesar, is located in Haryana, not Uttar Pradesh. Thanesar is closely associated with the Battle of Kurukshetra and was an important center of power during the reign of King Harsha in the 7th century. The town is famous for Sthaneshwara Mahadev Temple.

Therefore, the correct answer is (a).

Q-9. With reference to cultural history of India consider the following pairs:

1. Parivrajaka - Renunciant and Wanderer
2. Shramana - Priest with a high status
3. Upasaka - Lay follower of Buddhism

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

**Pair 1 is Correct:** A Parivrajaka is someone **who has renounced worldly life and chosen to wander** in search of spiritual enlightenment. Parivrajakas were often seen **traveling from place to place, living on alms and engaging in philosophical debates** with other spiritual seekers.

**Pair 2 is Incorrect:** Shramanas were part of a **non-Vedic religious movement** that arose in ancient India **around the 6th century BCE**. The Shramana tradition includes ascetic groups such as **Buddhists and Jains**, who sought **liberation through renunciation, self-discipline and meditation**, rather than through the **rituals and sacrifices prescribed by the Vedas**. Shramanas ejected the **authority of the Brahmins and the caste system**.

**Pair 3 is Correct:** Upasaka refers to a **lay follower of Buddhism**. In Buddhism, **Upasakas (male) and Upasikas (female)** are laypersons who have taken refuge in the **Triple Gem (the Buddha, the Dhamma, and the Sangha)** and follow the five precepts. They are **not ordained monks or nuns**, but they **support the monastic community through offerings and by practicing the teachings of the Buddha** in their daily lives.

Therefore, **the correct answer is (c)**.

**Q-10. Which of the following phrases defines the nature of the "Hundi" generally referred to in sources of the post - Harsha period?**

- (a) An advisory issued by the king to his subordinates.
- (b) An order from the feudal lord to his subordinates.
- (c) A diary to be maintained for daily accounts.
- (d) A bill of exchange

**Answer:** (d)

**Explanation:** The term "Hundi" refers to a **financial instrument** that was used as a **bill of exchange**. In the post-Harsha period, Hundis were used by **merchants, traders and bankers** to **facilitate trade and financial transactions** across different regions. They functioned similarly to **modern-day promissory notes or cheques**, allowing the transfer of money **without the need for physical currency**.

Thus, **the correct answer is (d)**.