



# UPSC

## CSE - Prelims

### Previous

# 26 Years

(1998 - 2023)

**Topic Wise Solved Questions  
with Video Solutions**



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## ART AND CULTURE

### Architecture



2005

**Q.1 Consider the following:**

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Tughlaqabad fort | 2. Lodi Garden    |
| 3. Qutub Minar      | 4. Fatehpur Sikri |

**The correct chronological order in which they were built is:**

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

2006

**Q.2 Hoysala monuments are found in**

- (a) Hampi and Hosper
- (b) Halebid and Belur
- (c) Mysore and Bangalore
- (d) Sringeri and Dharwar

**Q.3 In which one of the following cities is the Lingaraja Temple located ?**

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Bhubaneswar | (b) Bijapur           |
| (c) Kolkata     | (d) Shraavanabelagola |

2007

**Q.4 Which one of the following statements is not correct ?**

- (a) The statue of Gomateshwara at Shraavanabelagola represents the last Tirthankara of Jains
- (b) India's largest Buddhist monastery is in Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) The Khajuraho temples were built under Chandela kings
- (d) The Hoysaleswara temple is dedicated to Siva.

**Q.5 In ancient Indian Buddhist monasteries, a ceremony called Pavarana used to be held. It was the**

- (a) Occasion to elect the Sanghparinayaka and two speakers one on Dhamma and the other Vinaya.
- (b) Confession by monks of their offences committed during their stay in the monasteries during the rainy season.
- (c) Ceremony of initiation of new person into the Buddhist Sangha in when the head shaved and when yellow robes are offered.
- (d) Gathering of Buddhist monks on the day to the full Moon day of Ashadha when they take up a fixed abode for the next months of rainy season.

2005

**Q.6 Consider the following sites/monuments**

1. Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park.
2. Chhatrapati Shivaji Railway Station, Mumbai.
3. Mamallapuram.
4. Sun Temple (Konark Temple).

**Which of the above are included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO ?**

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| (a) 1, 2 and 3 | (b) 1, 3 and 4   |
| (c) 2 and 4    | (d) All of these |

2006

**Q.7 Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched ?**

- | Monastery             | State             |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Dhankar Monastery | Himachal Pradesh  |
| (b) Rumtek monastery  | Sikkim            |
| (c) Tabo Monastery    | Himachal Pradesh  |
| (d) Kye Monastery     | Arunachal Pradesh |

**Q.8 Match List - I (Place of Archaeological Monument) with List - II (State) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists**

List - I (Place of Archaeological Monument)	List - II (State)
A. Sisupalgarh	1. Assam
B. Piprahwa	2. Manipur
C. Goalpara	3. Odisha
D. Bishnupur	4. Uttar Pradesh

**Codes**

- |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> |
| (a) 2    | 4        | 1        | 3        |
| (b) 2    | 1        | 4        | 3        |
| (c) 3    | 4        | 1        | 2        |
| (d) 3    | 1        | 4        | 2        |

**Q.9 The initial design and construction of which massive temple took place during the reign of Suryavarman II ?**

- (a) Sri Mariamman temple
- (b) Angkor Vat temple
- (c) Batu Caves temple
- (d) Kamakhya temple

**Q.10 The Allahabad Pillar Inscription is associated with which one of the following ?**

- (a) Mahapadma Nanda
- (b) Chandragupta Maurya
- (c) Ashoka
- (d) Samudragupta

**Q.11 Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched ?**

- (a) Vikramshila : Uttar Pradesh  
Monastery
- (b) Hemkund : Himachal Pradesh  
Gurudwara
- (c) Udayagiri Caves : Maharashtra
- (d) Amaravati Buddhist : Andhra Pradesh  
Stupa

**2007**

**Q.12 Where is the famous Vijaya Vittala Temple, having its 56 carved pillars emitting musical notes located ?**

- (a) Belur (b) Bhadrachalam
- (c) Hampi (d) Srirangam

**2008**

**Q.13 Near which one of the following cities are Palitana temples located ?**

- (a) Bhavnagar (b) Mount Abu
- (c) Nasik (d) Ujjain

**2009**

**Q.14 Match List - I with List - II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists.**

List - I (Famous Temple)	List - II (State)
A. Vidyashankara temple	1. Andhra Pradesh
B. Rajarani temple	2. Karnataka
C. Kandariya Mahadeo temple	3. Madhya Pradesh
D. Bhimesvara temple	4. Odisha

**Codes**

- |     | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| (b) | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| (c) | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| (d) | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |

**Q.15 Where is the famous Virupaksha temple located ?**

- (a) Bhadrachalam (b) Chidambaram
- (c) Hampi (d) Srikalahasti

**2010**

**Q.16 In which state is the Buddhist site Tabo Monastery located ?**

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Sikkim (d) Uttarakhand

**2011**

**Q.17 India maintained its early cultural contacts and trade links with South-East Asia across the Bay of Bengal. For this pre-eminence of early maritime history of Bay of Bengal, which of the following could be the most convincing explanation/ explanations ?**

- (a) As compared to other countries, India had a better ship building technology in ancient and medieval times.
- (b) The rulers of Southern India always patronised traders, Brahmin priests and Buddhist monks in this context.
- (c) Monsoon winds across the Bay of Bengal facilitated sea voyages.
- (d) Both (a) and (b) are convincing explanations in this context.

**2012**

**Q.18 The Nagara, the Dravida and the Vesara are the**

- (a) Three main racial groups of the Indian subcontinent.
- (b) Three main linguistic divisions into which the languages of India can be classified.
- (c) Three main styles of Indian temple architecture.
- (d) Three main musical gharanas prevalent in India.

**2013**

**Q.19 Consider the following historical places**

1. Ajanta caves
2. Lepakshi temple
3. Sanchi stupa

**Which of the above places is/are also known for mural paintings ?**

- (a) Only 1 (b) 1 and 2
- (c) All of these (d) None of these

**Q.20 With reference to the history of Indian rock-cut architecture, consider the following statements**

1. The caves at Badami are the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India.
2. The Barabar rock-cut caves were originally made for Ajivikas by Emperor Chandragupta Maurya.
3. At Ellora caves were made for different faiths.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct ?**

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

**Q.21 Some Buddhist rockcut caves are called Chaityas, while the others are called Viharas. What is the difference between the two ?**

- (a) Vihara is a place of worship, while Chaitya is the dwelling place of the monks.
- (b) Chaitya is a place of worship, while Vihara is the dwelling place of the monks.
- (c) Chaitya is the stupa at the far end of the cave, while Vihara is the hall axial to it.
- (d) There is no material difference between the two.



**Q.32** Which one of the following statement(s) is/are correct ?

- (a) Ajanta Caves lie in the gorge of Waghora river.
- (b) Sanchi Stupa lies in the gorge of Chambal river.
- (c) Pandu-iena Cave Shrines lie in the gorge of Narmada river.
- (d) Amaravati Stupa lies in the gorge of Godavari river.

**2022**

**Q.33** The world's second tallest statue in sitting pose of Ramanuja was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India at Hyderabad recently. Which one of the following statements correctly represents the teachings of Ramanuja ?

- (a) The best means of salvation was devotion.
- (b) Vedas are eternal, self-existent and wholly authoritative.
- (c) Logical arguments were essential means for the highest bliss.
- (d) Salvation was to be obtained through meditation.

**Q.34** The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the new Circuit House near Somnath Temple at Veraval. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Somnath Temple ?

- 1. Somnath Temple is one of the Jyotirlinga shrines.
- 2. A description of Somnath Temple was given by Al-Biruni.
- 3. Pran Pratishtha of Somnath Temple (installation of the present day temple) was done by President S. Radhakrishnan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Sculpture**



**1998**

**Direction (Q. No. 35)** The following items consists of two statements. One labelled as Assertion (A) and the other labelled as Reason (R). You are to examine these two statements carefully and decide if the Assertion (A) and the Reason (R) are individually true and if so, whether the Reason R is a correct explanation of Assertion. Select your answer to these items using the codes given below and mark your answer accordingly.

**Codes**

- (a) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are individually true, but R is not a correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

**Q.35 Assertion (A)** : The Gandhara School of Art bears the mark of Hellenistic influence.

**Reason (R)** : Hinayana form was influenced by that art.

**2014**

**Q.36** With reference to the Indian history of art and culture, which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched ?

Famous Work of Sculpture	Site
1. A grand image of Buddha's Mahaparinirvana with numerous celestial musicians above and the sorrowful figures of his followers below	Ajanta Caves
2. A huge image of Varaha Avatar (boar incarnation of Vishnu, as he rescues Goddess Earth from the deep and chaotic waters, sculpted on rock	Mount Abu
3. "Arjuna's Penance' /Descent of Ganga sculpted on the surface of huge boulders	Mamallapura m

**Codes**

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

**Inscriptions/Edicts**



**1998**

**Q.37** Which one of the following ancient Indian records is the earliest royal order to preserve food grains to be utilized during the crises in the country ?

- (a) Sohagaura Copper plate
- (b) Rummindei pillar-edict of Asoka
- (c) Prayaga-Prasasti
- (d) Mehrauli Pillar inscription of Chandra

**2019**

**Q.38** In which of the following relief sculpture inscriptions is 'Ranyo Ashoka' (King Ashoka) mentioned along with the stone portrait of Ashoka ?

- (a) Kanganahalli                      (b) Sanchi  
(c) Shahbazgarhi                    (d) Sohgaura

**Poetry**



**2000**

**Directions (Q.No. 39)** The following items consist of two statements. One labelled the Assertion 'A' and the other as 'Reason R'. You are to examine these two statements carefully and decide if the 'Assertion A' and the 'Reason R' are individually true and if so, whether the Reason R' is the correct explanation of the given 'Assertion A'. Select your answer accordingly.

**Codes**

- (a) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A.  
(b) Both A and R are individually true, but R is not a correct explanation of A.  
(c) A is true, but R is false.  
(d) A is false, but R is true.

**Q.39 Assertion (A) :** The Aham and Puram poems of the Padinen Kilukanakku group formed a continuation of the Sangam composition.

**Reason (R) :** They were included under the Post Sangam works as against the Sangam works proper.

**2008**

**Q.40** Who among the following wrote the poem, **Subh-e Azadi** ?

- (a) Sahir Ludhianvi  
(b) Faiz Ahmed Faiz  
(c) Mohammad Iqbal  
(d) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

**2009**

**Q.41** Who of the following is the author of a collection of poem called '**Golden Threshold**' ?

- (a) Aruna Asaf Ali  
(b) Annie Besant  
(c) Sarojini Naidu  
(d) Vijayalakshmi Pandit

**Seals**



**2001**

**Q.42** Which one of the following animals was not represented out seals arid terracotta art of Harappan culture ?

- (a) Cow                                      (b) Elephant  
(c) Rhinoceros                          (d) Tiger

**Dance**



**1999**

**Q.43** Which one of the following pairs of folk dance forms and states is not correctly matched ?

- (a) Korku                                    :                      Maharashtra  
(b) Jhummar                                :                      Haryana  
(c) Thali                                        :                      Himachal Pradesh  
(d) Mukna                                     :                      Manipur

**2000**

**Q.44** Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched ?

- (a) Bakti Itihas                              Badal Sarkar  
(b) Sita Swayamvar                        Vishnu Das Bhawe  
(c) Yayati                                        Girish Karnad  
(d) Giddha                                        Jabbar Patel

**Q.45** Consider the following statements regarding the **Chakiarkoothu** form of dance:

1. It is performed by Chakiar caste.
2. It cannot be traditionally witnessed by the higher caste Hindus.
3. Mizhavu is the accompanying instrument.
4. Its theatre form is called koothambalam.

**Which of these statements are correct ?**

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

**2001**

**Q.46** Match List - I with List - II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists.

List - I (Dance)	List - II (Dance)
A. Kalamandalam Kshemavaty	1. Kathakali
B. Kottakkal Sivaraman	2. Manipuri
C. Lakshmi Viswanathan	3. Mohiniattam
D. N Madhabi Devi	4. Bharatanatyam

**Codes**

	A	B	C	D
(a)	1	3	2	4
(b)	3	1	4	2
(c)	1	3	4	2
(d)	3	1	2	4

**2008**

**Q.47** Bimbavati Devi is a well-known dancer of which type of dance ?

- (a) Manipuri (b) Bharatanatyam  
(c) Kuchipudi (d) Odishi

**2012**

**Q.48** How do you distinguish between Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam dances ?

- Dancers occasionally speaking dialogues is found in Kuchipudi dance, but not in Bharatanatyam.
- Dancing on the brass plate by keeping the feet on its edges is a feature of Bharatanatyam, but Kuchipudi dance does not have such a form of movements.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct ?

- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2  
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**2013**

**Q.49** In the context of cultural history of India, a pose in dance and dramatics called 'Tribhanga' has been a favorite of Indian artists from ancient times till today. Which one of the following statements best describes this pose ?

- One leg is bent and the body is slightly but, oppositely curved at waist and neck.
- Facial expressions, hand gestures and make up are combined to symbolize certain epic or historic characters.
- Movements of body, face and hands are used to express oneself or to tell a story.
- A little smile, slightly curved waist and certain hand gestures are emphasized to express the feelings of love or eroticism.

**Q.50** With reference to India's culture and tradition, what is 'Kalaripayattu' ?

- It is an ancient Bhakti cult of Shaivism still prevalent in some parts of South India.
- It is an ancient style bronze and brass work still found in Southern part of Coromandel area.
- It is an ancient form of dance, drama and a living tradition in the Northern part of Malabar.
- It is an ancient martial art and a living tradition in some parts of South India.

**2014**

**Q.51** With reference to the famous Sattriya dance, consider the following statements

- Sattriya is a combination of music, dance and drama.
- It is a centuries-old living tradition of Vaishnavites of Assam.
- It is based on classical Ragas and Talas of devotional songs composed by Tulsidas, Kabir and Mirabai.

Which of the statement(s) given above is /are correct ?

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

**Q.52** Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched ?

- Garba : Gujarat
  - Mohiniattam : Odisha
  - Yakshagana : Karnataka Codes
- (a) Only 1 (b) 2 and 3  
(c) 1 and 3 (d) All of these

**2017**

**Q.53** With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements :

- It is a song and dance performance.
- Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
- It is performed to narrate the life and deeds Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

**Music/Instrument**



**1999**

**Q.54** Match List - I with List - II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List - I	List - II
A. Pandit Vishnu Digambar	1. Introduced the scheme of Raga Classification in Indian music
B. Venkatamahi	2. Proponent of the Carnatic music
C. Shyama Shastri	3. Proponent of the Khayal form of Hindustani music
D. Amir Khusru	4. Wrote the music for the song 'Vande Mataram'

**Codes**

- |     | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| (b) | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| (c) | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| (d) | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 |

**2000**

**Q.55 Match List - I with List - II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:**

List - I	List - II
A. Balamurali Krishna	1. Hindustani vocal
B. Mita Pandit	2. Ghatam
C. Kanyakumari	3. Sitar
D. Nikhil Bannerjee	4. Violin
	5. Carnatic vocal

**Codes**

- |     | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| (b) | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| (c) | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| (d) | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 |

**Q.56 The Raga which is sung early in the morning is**

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| (a) Todi    | (b) Darbari    |
| (c) Bhopali | (d) Bhimpalasi |

**2003**

**Q.57 Consider the following statements**

1. Kitab-i-Nauras, a collection of songs in praise of Hindu deities and Muslim saints, was written by Ibrahim Adil Shah II.
2. Amir Khusrau was the originator in India of the early form of the musical style known as Qawali.

**Which of these statement (s) is/are correct ?**

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Only 1       | (b) Only 2          |
| (c) Both 1 and 2 | (d) Neither 1 nor 2 |

**2006**

**Q.58 Who among the following is a Hindustani classical singer ?**

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Geeta Chandran  | (b) Leela Samson  |
| (c) Gangubai Hangal | (d) Swapnasundari |

**2007**

**Q.59 The song 'Amar Sonar Bangla' written during the Swadeshi Movement of India inspired the liberation struggle of Bangladesh and was adopted as the National Anthem of Bangladesh. Who wrote this song ?**

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Rajni Kanta Sen | (b) Dwijendralal Roy    |
| (c) Mukunda Das     | (d) Rabindranath Tagore |

**Q.60 Match List - I with List - II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists.**

List - I (Person)	List - II (Known As)
A. Bhajan Sopori	1. Bharatnatyam dancer
B. Birju Maharaj	2. Exponent of Santoor
C. Priyadarshini Govind	3. Mridangam maestro
D. TV Gopala Krishnan	4. Kathak dancer

**Codes**

- |     | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| (b) | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| (c) | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| (d) | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |

**2009**

**Q.61 The brothers Umakant and Ramakant Gundecha are**

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Dhrupad vocalists | (b) Kathak dancers |
| (c) Sarod maestros    | (d) Tabla players  |

**2012**

**Q.62 With reference to Dhrupad, one of the major traditions of India that has been kept alive for centuries, which of the following statements are correct ?**

1. Dhrupad originated and developed in the Rajput kingdoms during the Mughal period
2. Dhrupad is primarily a devotional and spiritual music.
3. Dhrupad Alap uses Sanskrit syllables from mantras.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

- |                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| (a) 1 and 2    | (b) 2 and 3           |
| (c) 1, 2 and 3 | (d) None of the above |

**2014**

**Q.63 A community of people called Manganiyars is well-known for their**

- |   |
|---|
| (a) Martial arts in North-East India        |
| (b) Musical tradition in North-West India   |
| (c) Classical vocal music in South India    |
| (d) Pietra dura tradition in Central India. |

**2018**

**Q.64 With reference to culture history of India, consider the following statements.**

1. Most of the Tyagaraja Kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
2. Tyagaraja created several new ragas.
3. Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
4. Annamacharya kirtana are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.

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

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



**2008**

- Q.76** Ebrahim Alkazi is an eminent personality in which one of the following areas ?
- Heart surgery
  - Civil aviation
  - Theatre training
  - Transport engineering

**Literature**



**1998**

- Q.77** Which of the following pairs are correctly matched ?
- Mrichchakatikam Shudraka
  - Buddhacharita Vasuvandhu
  - Mudrarakshasha Vishakhadatta
  - Harshacharita Banabhatta
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below
- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 | (b) 1, 3 and 4 |
| (c) 1 and 4       | (d) 2 and 3    |

**1999**

- Q.78** Which one of the following statements is not correct ?
- 'Neel Darpan' was a play based on the exploitation of the indigo farmers.
  - The author of the play "Ghashiram Kotwal" is Vijay Tendulkar.
  - The play 'Navanna' by Navin Chandra Das was based on the famine of Bengal.
  - Urdu theatre used to depend heavily on Parsi theatre.

- Q.79** Match List - I with List - II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List - I	List - II
(A) The first Indian war of Independence	1. Rabindranath Tagore
(B) Anand Math	2. Sri. Aurobindo
(C) Life Divine	3. Bankim Chandra Chatterji
(D) Sadhana	4. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

**Codes**

- |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> |
| (a) 4    | 3        | 2        | 1        |
| (b) 3    | 4        | 1        | 2        |
| (c) 4    | 3        | 1        | 2        |
| (d) 3    | 4        | 2        | 1        |

**2001**

- Q.80** Who amongst the following Englishmen, first translated Bhagavad Gita into English ?
- William Jones
  - Charles Wilkins
  - Alexander Cunningham
  - John Marshall

**2003**

- Q.81** 'Mrichchhakatika' an ancient Indian book written by Shudraka deals with
- The love affair of a rich merchant with the daughter of a courtesan.
  - The victory of Chandragupta II over the Shaka Kshatrapas of Western India.
  - The military expeditions and exploits of Samudragupta.
  - The love affairs between a Gupta King and a princess of Kamarupa.
- Q.82** Dilip Kaur Tiwana is well known as a
- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| (a) Litterateur | (b) Musician     |
| (c) Scientist   | (d) Sportsperson |

**2007**

- Q.83** Who wrote the book - 'The Story of The Integration of The Indian States' ?
- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| (a) BN Rao        | (b) Rajagopalachari |
| (c) Krishna Menon | (d) V P Menon       |
- Q.84** Who among the following, wrote the book 'Bahubivah'?
- Raja Rammohan Roy
  - Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
  - Pandita Ramabai
  - Rabindranath Tagore

**2008**

- Q.85** Match List - I with List - II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists.

List - I (Author)	List - II (Work)
A. Bankimchandra	1. Shatranj Ke Khilari
B. Dinabandhu Mitra	2. Debi Chaudhrani
C. Prem Chand	3. Nil Darpan
	4. Chandrakanta

**Codes**

- |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> |
| (a) 2    | 4        | 1        |
| (b) 3    | 4        | 2        |
| (c) 2    | 3        | 1        |
| (d) 3    | 1        | 4        |

- Q.86** Recently, the manuscripts of which one of the following have been included in the UNESCO's Memory of World Register ?
- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| (a) Abhidhamma Pitaka | (b) Mahabharata |
| (c) Ramayana          | (d) Rig Veda    |

**2016**

**Q.87** Which one of the following books of ancient India has the love story of the son of the founder of Sunga dynasty ?

- (a) Swapnavasavadatta      (b) Malavikagnimitra  
(c) Meghadoot                (d) Ratnavali

**Q.88** With reference to the cultural history of India, the memorizing of chronicles, dynastic histories and epic tales was the profession of who of the following ?

- (a) Shramana                    (b) Parivraajaka  
(c) Agrahaarika                (d) Maagadha

**2020**

**Q.89** With reference to the scholars/litterateurs 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                        (b) 2 and 3  
(c) 3 only                         (d) 1, 2 and 3

**2022**

**Q.90** With reference to Indian history, consider the following texts:

1. Nettipakarana
2. Parishishtaparvan
3. Avadanashataka
4. Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana

Which of the above are Jaina texts ?

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

**Q.91** With reference to Indian history, consider the following pairs :

Historical person	-	known as
1. Aryadeva	-	Jaina scholar
2. Dignaga	-	Buddhist scholar
3. Nathamuni	-	Vaishnava scholar

How many pairs given above are correctly matched ?

- (a) None of the pairs            (b) Only one pair  
(c) Only two pairs                (d) All three pairs

**Q.92** 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

**Q.93** 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.

**Q.94** "Yogavāsistha" was translated into Persian by Nizamuddin Panipati during the reign of:

- (a) Akbar                            (b) Humayun  
(c) Shahjahan                    (d) Aurangzeb

**Languages**



**2014**

**Q.95** Consider the following languages

1. Gujarati    2. Kannada    3. Telugu

Which of the above has/have been declared as "Classical Language / Languages" by the Government ?

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

**2015**

**Q.96** Which one of the following was given classical language status recently ?

- (a) Odia                            (b) Konkani  
(c) Bhojpuri                        (d) Assamese

**Handicraft**



**2015**

**Q.97** Which of the following has/have been accorded "Geographical Indication status" ?

1. Banaras Brocades and Sarees
2. Rajasthani Daal-Bati-Churma
3. Tirupathi Laddu

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

**2020**

**Q.98 Consider the following pairs.**

Craft	Heritage of
1. Puthukkuli shawls	Tamil Nadu
2. Sujini embroidery	Maharashtra
3. Uppada Jamdani saris	Karnataka

**Which of the above pairs is/are correct ?**

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

**2021**

**Q.99 Consider the following pairs (Historical place) (Well-known for)**

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Burzahom        | Rock-cut shrines |
| 2. Chandraketugarh | Terracotta art   |
| 3. Ganeshwar       | Copper artefacts |

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

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

**Religion**



**2020**

**Q.100 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) Philosophical schools that did not accept the authority of Vedas.  
 (c) Perfections whose attainment led to the Bodhisattva path.  
 (d) Powerful merchant guilds of early medieval South India.

**Q.101 With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following pairs:**

1. Parivrajaka	Renuciant 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                                      (b) 1 and 3  
 (c) 2 and 3                                      (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Festivals**



**2002**

**Q.102 Chapchar Kut is a festival celebrated in the state of**

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh                      (b) Assam  
 (c) Mizoram                                      (d) Sikkim

**2009**

**Q.103 Mahamastakabhisheka, a great religious event, is associated with and done for who of the following ?**

- (a) Bahubali                                      (b) Buddha  
 (c) Mahavirji                                      (d) Nataraja

**2017**

**Q.104 Consider the following pairs :**

Traditions	Communities
1. Chaliha Sahib Festival	Sindhis
2. Nanda Raj Jaat Yatra	Gonds
3. Wari-Warkari	Santhals

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

- (a) Only 1                                      (b) 2 and 3  
 (c) 1 and 3                                      (d) None of these

**2018**

**Q.105 Consider the following pairs.**

Tradition	State
1. Chapchar Kut festival	Mizoram
2. Khongiom Parba ballad	Manipur
3. Thang-Ta dance	Sikkim

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

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

**Institutions**



**2004**

**Q.106 The Archaeological Survey of India is an attached office of the Department/Ministry of**

- (a) Culture  
 (b) Tourism  
 (c) Science and Technology  
 (d) Human Resource Development



# UPSC PRE 2023 PAPER – I



## Art & Culture

**Q.1** With reference to ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. The concept of Stupa is Buddhist in origin.
2. Stupa was generally a repository of relics
3. Stupa was a votive and commemorative structure in Buddhist tradition.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two  
(c) All three (d) None

**Q.2** With reference to ancient Indian History, consider the following pairs:

Literary work	Author
1. Devichandragupta	: Bilhana
2. Hammira-Mahakavya	: Nayachandra Suri
3. Milinda-panha	: Nagarjuna
4. Nittivakyamrita	: Somadeva Suri

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

**Q.3** Consider the following pairs:

Site	Well known for
1. Besnagar	- Shaivite cave shrine
2. Bhaja	- Buddhist cave shrine
3. Sittanavasal	- Jain cave shrine

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two  
(c) All three (d) None

**Q.4** Consider the following statements in respect of the National Flag of India according to the Flag Code of India, 2002:

**Statement - I :**

One of the standard sizes of the National Flag of India is 600 mm × 400 mm.

**Statement - II:**

The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement - I and Statement - II are correct and Statement - II is the correct explanation for Statement - I  
(b) Both Statement - I and Statement - II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I  
(c) Statement - I is correct but Statement - II is incorrect  
(d) Statement - I is incorrect but Statement - II is correct.

## Ancient & Medieval History

**Q.5** 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

**Q.6** 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

**Q.7** Which one of the following explains the practice of 'Vattakirutal' as mentioned in Sangam poems?

- (a) Kings employing women bodyguards  
(b) Learned persons assembling in royal courts to discuss religious and philosophical matters  
(c) Young girls keeping watch over agricultural fields and driving away birds and animals  
(d) A king defeated in a battle committing ritual suicide by starving himself to death

**Q.8** Consider the following dynasties :

1. Hoysala 2. Gahadavala  
3. Kakatiya 4. Yadava

How many of the above dynasties established their kingdoms in early eighth century AD?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two  
(c) Only three (d) None

**Q.9** "Souls are not only the property of animal and plant life, but also of rocks, running water and many other natural objects not looked on as living by other religious sects."

The above statements reflects one of the core beliefs of which one of the following religious sects of ancient India?

- (a) Buddhism (b) Jainism  
(c) Shaivism (d) Vaishnavism

**Q.10** Who among the following rulers of Vijayanagara Empire constructed a large dam across Tungabhadra River and a canal-cum-aqueduct several kilometers long from the river to the capital city?

- (a) Devaraya I (b) Mallikarjuna  
(c) Vira Vijaya (d) Virupaksha

**Q.11** With reference to the Indian History, Alexander Rea, A. H. Longhurst, Robert Sewell, James Burgess and Walter Elliot were associated with

- (a) archaeological excavation  
(b) establishment of English Press in Colonial India  
(c) establishment of Churches in Princely States.  
(d) Construction of railways in Colonial India.

## Modern History

**Q.12 Who among the following rulers of medieval Gujarat surrendered Diu to Portuguese?**

- (a) Ahmad Shah
- (b) Mahmud Begarha
- (c) Bahadur Shah
- (d) Muhammad Shah

**Q.13 Consider the following statements:**

**Statement - I :**

7th August is declared as the National Handloom Day.

**Statement - II**

It was in 1905 that the Swadeshi Movement was launched on the same day.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement - II is the correct explanation for Statement - I
- (b) Both Statement - I and Statement - II are correct and Statement - II is not the correct explanation for Statement - I
- (c) Statement - I is correct but Statement - II is incorrect
- (d) Statement - I is incorrect but Statement - II is correct

## World Geography

**Q.14 About three-fourths of world's cobalt, a metal required for the manufacture of batteries for electric motor vehicles, is produced by**

- (a) Argentina
- (b) Botswana
- (c) the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- (d) Kazakhstan

**Q.15 Which one of the following is a part of the Congo Basin?**

- (a) Cameroon
- (b) Nigeria
- (c) South Sudan
- (d) Uganda

**Q.16 With reference to the Earth's atmosphere, which one of the following statements is correct?**

- (a) The total amount of insolation received at the equator is roughly about 10 times of that received at the poles.
- (b) Infrared rays constitute roughly two-thirds of insolation.
- (c) Infrared waves are largely absorbed by water vapour that is concentrated in the lower atmosphere
- (d) Infrared waves are a part of visible spectrum of electromagnetic waves of solar radiation

**Q.17 Consider the following statements:**

**Statement - I:**

The temperature contrast between continents and oceans is greater during summer than in winter.

**Statement - II:**

The specific heat of water is more than that of land surface.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- (a) Both Statement - I and Statement - II are correct and Statement - II is the correct explanation for Statement - I
- (b) Both Statement - I and Statement - II are correct and Statement -II is not the correct explanation for Statement - I
- (c) Statement - I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement – I is incorrect but Statement – II is correct.

**Q.18 Consider the following statement:**

In a seismograph, P waves are recorded earlier than S waves.

In P waves, the individual particles vibrate to and fro in the direction of wave propagation whereas in S waves, the particles vibrate up and down at right angles to the direction of wave propagation.

**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

## Indian Geography

**Q.19 Consider the following statements :**

1. Jhelum River passes through Wular Lake.
2. Krishna River directly feeds Kolleru Lake.
3. Meandering of Gandak River formed Kanwar Lake.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Q.20 Consider the following pairs:**

- | Port              | Well known as                                       |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Kamarajar Port | - First major port in India registered as a company |
| 2. Mundra Port    | - Largest privately owned port in India             |
| 3. Visakhapatnam  | - Largest container Port port in India              |

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) All three pairs
- (d) None of the pairs

## Answer Key

# Art and Culture

Ques.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ans.	b	b	a	a	b	d	d	c	b	d
Ques.	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Ans.	d	c	a	a	c	b	d	c	b	c
Ques.	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Ans.	b	c	a	a	b	b	a	a	a	d
Ques.	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Ans.	c	a	a	a	a	c	a	a	c	b
Ques.	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Ans.	c	d	a	d	d	c	a	a	a	d
Ques.	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Ans.	b	c	b	b	a	a	c	c	d	c
Ques.	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Ans.	a	b	b	b	d	b	a	c	d	a
Ques.	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
Ans.	a	d	b	d	d	c	b	d	c	b
Ques.	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
Ans.	a	a	d	b	c	d	b	d	c	b
Ques.	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
Ans.	c	d	b	a	c	a	c	a	d	c
Ques.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
Ans.	b	c	a	a	b	a	c	a	d	b

## Answer Key

# ANCIENT INDIA

<b>Ques.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Ans.</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>a</b>
<b>Ques.</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Ans.</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>
<b>Ques.</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Ans.</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>
<b>Ques.</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Ans.</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>b</b>
<b>Ques.</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Ans.</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>a</b>
<b>Ques.</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>			
<b>Ans.</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>b</b>			

