

11th History Lesson 18 Questions in English
18] Polity and Society in Post-Mauryan Period

1. After the death of which Mauryan empire it started to decline?
- a) Bindusara
 - b) Bimbisara
 - c) **Ashoka**
 - d) Chandragupta Maurya

Explanation

In the four centuries following the death of Emperor Asoka and the resulting decline of the Mauryan Empire, parts of India were subject to the invasion of the Indo-Greeks, Sakas and Kushanas from West and Central Asia.

2. Assertion(A): Indo-Greeks, Sakas and Kushanas from West and Central Asia established themselves as rulers over large parts of India

Reason(R): This strengthened the process of acculturation and the assimilation of foreign cultures and art forms into Indian society

- a) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) does not explain (A)
- b) Both (A) and (R) are wrong
- c) **Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) explains (A)**
- d) (A) is Correct and (R) is wrong

Explanation

The **invasion of the Indo- Greeks, Sakas and Kushanas from West and Central Asia. All of them established themselves as rulers over large parts of India. This strengthened the process of acculturation and the assimilation of foreign cultures and art forms into Indian society.** It also resulted in the integration of India with the Mediterranean world and Central Asia and China through extended trade linkages.

3. Which of the following statement is correct?

- 1) India's interaction with the Greeks began with the invasion of north-western India by Alexander (327–325 BCE) and his conquest of the Punjab region

- 2) When he began his return march to the West, he left the conquered territories under provincial governors
- 3) One of Ashoka's early military expeditions was against these foreign intruders
 - a) 1, 2
 - b) 1, 3
 - c) 2, 3
 - d) All the above

Explanation

India's interaction with the Greeks began with the invasion of north-western India by Alexander (327–325 BCE) and his conquest of the Punjab region. When he began his return march to the West, he left the conquered territories under provincial governors. **One of Chandragupta Maurya's early military expeditions was against these foreign intruders.**

4. When did Seleucus Nicator succeeded in making himself the master of a vast territory from Phrygia (Turkey) to the river Indus?
 - a) After 311 BCE
 - b) Before 311 CE
 - c) After 327 BCE
 - d) After 327 CE

Explanation

Seleucus Nicator, one of Alexander's most capable generals, succeeded in making himself the master of a vast territory from **Phrygia (Turkey) to the river Indus after 311BCE.**

5. Which Mauryan king defeated Seleucus around 305 BCE?
 - a) **Chandragupta Maurya**
 - b) Brihadata
 - c) Ashoka
 - d) Bimbisara

Explanation

Within a few years, probably around 305 BCE, **Chandragupta waged a war against Seleucus and defeated him.** However, this was not the savage defeat that happened to Alexander's governors. Instead, Chandragupta made a peace treaty with Seleucus.

6. Who was sent to the Mauryan capital Pataliputra as the Greek ambassador?

- a) Megasthenes
- b) Fa Hien
- c) Hieun Tsang
- d) Pliny the elder

Explanation

Seleucus surrendered the land he had conquered up to the Indus and received 500 war elephants in return. There is also mention of a marriage agreement. The treaty also led to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Greeks and the Mauryan emperor.

Megasthenes was sent to the Mauryan capital Pataliputra as the Greek ambassador.

7. Which of the following statement is correct?

- 1) Bindusara, Chandragupta's son, continued to maintain friendly ties with the Greek kingdoms in West Asia
 - 2) Greek historians refer to ambassadors sent by Ptolemy II of Egypt and to Bindusara's correspondence with Antiochus of Syria.
- a) 1 alone
 - b) 2 alone
 - c) 1, 2
 - d) None

Explanation

Bindusara, Chandragupta's son, continued to maintain friendly ties with the Greek kingdoms in West Asia. **Greek historians refer to ambassadors sent by Ptolemy II of Egypt and to Bindusara's correspondence with Antiochus of Syria.**

8. Which Ashokan Rock Edict mentions five yona kings?

- a) Rock edicts II
- b) Rock edicts VIII
- c) **Rock edicts XIII**
- d) Rock edicts IX

Explanation

Asoka also continued the tradition of friendly relations with the Greek kingdoms. His **Rock Edict (13) mentions five yona kings**, identified as Antiochus II Theos of Syria, Ptolemy II Philadelphus of Egypt, Antigonus Gonatas of Macedonia, Magas of Cyrene and Alexander

of Corinth. This also indicates that the relations of Asoka with the Greeks extended beyond West Asia well into the heartland of Greece.

9. In India the term yavana was used to denote all persons of_____ origin

- a) Latin
- b) Dravidian
- c) **Greek**
- d) Aryan

Explanation

We now come across the term yavana (or yona) for Greeks, which was used throughout India. The word was derived from the Persian word yauna, which referred to Greeks. **In India the term yavana was used to denote all persons of Greek origin**, including those of mixed race and even the Phoenicians.

10. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- 1) Regular interchange of ambassadors and correspondence, as well as the extension of the Mauryan Empire till Afghanistan, facilitated regular trade from India to the West as far as Egypt.
 - 2) Trade was carried on by the overland route via north-west Afghanistan (Bactria) and also partly by the coastal route along the Persian Gulf and Red Sea.
- a) 1 alone
 - b) 2 alone
 - c) 1, 2
 - d) **None**

Explanation

Regular interchange of ambassadors and correspondence, as well as the extension of the Mauryan Empire till Afghanistan, facilitated regular trade from India to the West as far as Egypt. Trade was carried on by the overland route via north-west Afghanistan (Bactria) and also partly by the coastal route along the Persian Gulf and Red Sea. A variety of luxury goods, including ivory, tortoise shell, pearls, indigo and other dyes, aromatic substances like spikenard or nard (a fragrant oil from the Gangetic region) and malabathrum (leaf of cinnamon, used as an aromatic) and rare woods were exported from India.

11. The governor of Bactria, Diodotus, revolted against_____

- a) Brihadatha

- b) Antiochus I
- c) **Antiochus II**
- d) Antiochus III

Explanation

The Seleucid Empire, which extended from northern Afghanistan (Bactria) to Syria, began to weaken and disintegrate after 250 BCE. The **governor of Bactria, Diodotus, revolted against Antiochus II and became the independent ruler of Bactria.**

12. Which local Indian king was defeated by Antiochus III?

- a) Susena
- b) **Subhagasena**
- c) Bharata
- d) Kundan

Explanation

In 212 BCE, the king of Bactria was a Greek named Euthydemus. The Seleucid emperor Antiochus III was unable to subjugate Euthydemus and agreed to negotiate a settlement with him, since Antiochus himself needed to turn his attention to his dominions in the West. But **Antiochus III did come down the Kabul river and managed to defeat the local Indian king, known as Subhagasena. Nothing much is known about this king.**

13. When did Ashoka died?

- a) 326 BCE
- b) **236 BCE**
- c) 326 CE
- d) 236 CE

Explanation

It can be inferred that the mention of an independent king in the region might be an indication of the weakening of the central authority of the **Mauryan Empire after Asoka's death in 236 BCE.**

14. Who was the first known Indo-Greek king?

- a) Nictor
- b) Demetrius I
- c) **Demetrius II**

d) Meanader

Explanation

Euthydemus's son Demetrius succeeded him (c. 200 BCE), and another Demetrius, **probably Demetrius II, was the first known Indo-Greek king (c. 175 BCE)**. The distinguishing feature of the reign of the Indo-Greek kings was their exquisite coinage. Minted in the same style as Greek coins of silver, they carried the portrait of the reigning king on one side with his name.

15. Who had usurped the throne after the last Mauryan ruler?

- a) Agnimitra
- b) Pushyamitra**
- c) Vasumitra
- d) Brihadata

Explanation

Indian accounts of the period refer to the yavana invasion of Ayodhya (Saketa) and further east into the Magadha territory. However, since the Greeks seem to have been beset by internal dissensions, they did not retain any of this territory. They ceded land to **Pushyamitra, the Sunga emperor who had usurped the throne after the last Mauryan ruler**

16. _____ is the local language of north-western Pakistan

- a) Latin
- b) Kharoshti**
- c) Sanskrit
- d) Prakrit

Explanation

Numismatic evidence also proves Demetrius's association with India. He issued bi-lingual square coins with Greek on the obverse and **Kharoshti (the local language of north-western Pakistan)** on the reverse.

17. At about 165 BCE, Bactria was lost to_____

- 1) Parthians
- 2) Satavahanas
- 3) Sakas
- 4) Sunga

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3, 4
- c) 1, 3
- d) All the above

Explanation

At about 165 BCE, **Bactria was lost to the Parthians and Sakas**. After this, the yavanas continued to rule in central and southern Afghanistan and north-western India. The Greeks continued to be beset with internal squabbles among many claimants to power, and the names of more than thirty kings can be identified from their coins. It is possible that they all ruled small pockets as autonomous rulers and issued their own coinage.

18. _____ was the best known of the Indo-Greek kings

- a) Demetrius I
- b) **Menander**
- c) Demetrius II
- d) Agnimitra

Explanation

Menander (c.165/145–130 BCE) was the best known of the Indo-Greek kings. He is said to have ruled a large kingdom in the north-west of the country.

19. Which of the following statement is correct about Menander is correct?

- 1) He is said to have ruled a large kingdom in the north-west of the country
 - 2) His coins have been found over an extensive area ranging from the valleys of the Kabul and Indus rivers to as far as western Uttar Pradesh.
 - 3) Though he does not look like a great and heroic conqueror as seen in his coins, he is said to have raided the Gangetic region along with the kings of Panchala and Mathura
- a) 1, 2
 - b) 1, 3
 - c) 2, 3
 - d) **All the above**

Explanation

Menander is said to have ruled a large kingdom in the north-west of the country. **His coins have been found over an extensive area ranging from the valleys of the Kabul and Indus**

rivers to as far as western Uttar Pradesh. This gives a good indication of the extent of his kingdom. Though he does not look like a great and heroic conqueror as seen in his coins, he is said to have raided the Gangetic region along with the kings of Panchala and Mathura.

20. King Kharavela of Kalinga mentioned in the_____, was not able to stop Menander

- a) Ashoka Inscriptions
- b) Hathigumpā Inscriptions**
- c) Elephanta Cave inscriptions
- d) Sanchi Stupa inscriptions

Explanation

King Kharavela of Kalinga mentioned in the Hathigumpā inscription, was not able to stop Menander. Menander successfully attacked Pataliputra, but retreated without consolidating his conquest. Interestingly, in his coins, he is described as “king” and “soter” or saviour, and not as a great conqueror.

21. Menander promoted_____

- a) Buddhism**
- b) Jainism
- c) Ajivika
- d) Sufism

Explanation

Menander is mainly **remembered as the eponymous hero of the Buddhist text, Milindapinhā** (questions of Milinda), in which he is engaged in a question-and-answer discussion on Buddhism with the teacher Nagasena. **He is believed to have become a Buddhist and promoted Buddhism.**

22. _____ had evidently become a follower of Vishnu

- a) Menander
- b) Heliodorus**
- c) Herodatus
- d) Kanishka

Explanation

Heliodorus, who was sent to the court of King Bhagabhadra erected a pillar or garudadhvaja with its capital adorned by a figure of Garuda, in honour of God Krishna (Vasudeva).

Heliodorus had evidently become a follower of Vishnu. (The pillar stands in isolation in the middle of a open ground in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh.)

23. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- 1) Indian interactions with the Greeks was not limited to the Indo-Greek kings.
 - 2) Greeks were becoming known and their presence recorded throughout the sub-continent
- a) 1 alone
 - b) 2 alone
 - c) 1, 2
 - d) None

Explanation

Indian interactions with the Greeks was not limited to the Indo-Greek kings. Greeks were becoming known and their presence recorded throughout the sub-continent. Merchants, sailors and many others of Greek origin were travelling to India, so there was a continued interaction with the Greeks.

24. Match the following

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| I. Sakas | 1. yueh-chi |
| II. Parthians | 2. Scythians |
| III. Kushanas | 3. Pahlavis |
- a) 3, 1, 2
 - b) 2, 1, 3
 - c) 1, 3, 2
 - d) 2, 3, 1

Explanation

The Indo-Greek kingdoms in north-western India were ousted by various nomadic tribes from Central Asia, known as the **Sakas (Scythians), Parthians (Pahlavis) and Kushanas (yueh-chi or yuezhi tribes in Chinese).**

25. Which of the following is the advent of nomadic tribes in India?

- 1) The advent of these tribes in India arose as a result of a complex sequence of migrations and political developments in Central Asia.

- 2) In the eastern part of Central Asia, the Yueh-chi were being pushed westward by the Chinese who had built the Great Wall to keep out nomads and to protect their villages and agriculture from their raids.
- a) 1 alone
 - b) 2 alone
 - c) 1, 2
 - d) None

Explanation

The advent of these tribes in India arose as a result of a complex sequence of migrations and political developments in Central Asia. In the eastern part of Central Asia, the Yueh-chi were being pushed westward by the Chinese who had built the **Great Wall to keep out nomads and to protect their villages and agriculture from their raids.**

26. When did independent Parthian kingdom of eastern Iran was established by the Parthian Vonones?

- a) 58 BCE
- b) 58 CE
- c) 35 BCE
- d) 35 CE

Explanation

The Yueh-chi, in turn, turned westward and pushed the Sakas towards eastern Iran, where the Parthians had become rulers following the collapse of the Seleucid empire. **As a curious historical event, in 58 BCE, the independent Parthian kingdom of eastern Iran was established by the Parthian Vonones (or Azes, according to some historians).** This year was taken to denote the start of the Vikram samvat era, the Indian calendar.

27. Which of the following statement is correct?

- 1) The Sakas were pushed back from eastern Iran to north-western India and finally settled in the region between the Indus valley and Saurashtra.
 - 2) They were pushed by the Parthian ruler Mithradates
- a) 1 alone
 - b) 2 alone
 - c) 1, 2
 - d) None

Explanation

The Sakas were pushed back from eastern Iran by the Parthian ruler Mithradates (188–123 BCE), and they then turned to north-western India and finally settled in the region between the Indus valley and Saurashtra.

28. The first Saka ruler in India was_____

- a) Menander
- b) Mao
- c) **Maues**
- d) Zora

Explanation

The first Saka ruler in India was Maues or Moa/Moga (20 BCE to 22 CE). He occupied Gandhara, driving a wedge into the Indo-Greek kingdoms.

29. Who finally destroyed the last remnants of the Indo-Greek kingdoms?

- a) Mao
- b) Maues
- c) **Azes**
- d) Menander

Explanation

It was **Maues successor Azes** who finally destroyed the last remnants of the Indo-Greek kingdoms and extended Saka rule as far as Mathura.

30. In India, the Sakas became assimilated into_____ society

- a) Buddhist
- b) Jain
- c) **Hindu**
- d) Islamic

Explanation

In India, **the Sakas became assimilated into Hindu society**. They began to adopt Hindu names and religious beliefs, so much so that their coins had representations of Hindu gods on one side.

31. One of the most famous of the Saka kshatrapas was_____

- a) Kabilan

- b) Kanishka
- c) **Rudradaman**
- d) Menander

Explanation

The Sakas appointed kshatrapas or satraps as provincial governors to administer their territories. Many of the kshatrapas titled themselves mahakshatrapas and were virtually independent rulers. **One of the most famous of the Saka kshatrapas was Rudradaman** (130–150 CE).

32. Rudradaman exploits are celebrated in the famous rock inscription of_____

- a) Elephanta cave
- b) Ajanata
- c) Ellora
- d) **Junagadh**

Explanation

Rudradaman exploits are celebrated in the famous rock inscription of Junagadh (in Gujarat). According to this inscription, he had even defeated the Satavahanas in battle. His name indicates that the process of assimilation into Indian society was complete by that time.

33. Which of the following statement is correct?

- 1) The Sakas were displaced by the Parthian Menander, who first conquered Kabul
 - 2) He lost the Kabul valley to the Kushanas, but he was successful against the Sakas in India
 - 3) The first Kushana king who conquered Afghanistan was Khujula Kadphises, followed by Wima Kadphises.
- a) 1, 2
 - b) 1, 3
 - c) **2, 3**
 - d) All the above

Explanation

The Sakas were displaced by the Parthian Gondophernes, who first conquered Kabul (c. 43 CE). He lost the Kabul valley to the Kushanas, but he was successful against the Sakas in India. Records of his rule have been discovered in Peshawar district. The Sakas approached

the Kushanas (yueh-chi) for war help against the Parthians. **The first Kushana king who conquered Afghanistan was Khujula Kadphises, followed by Wima Kadphises.** The two kings extended Kushana territory to Gandhara, Punjab and as far to the east as the Ganga-Jumna doab till Mathura.

34. The best known of the Kushana kings was_____

- a) Agnimitra
- b) Kanishka**
- c) Ajatshatru
- d) Menander

Explanation

The **best known of the Kushana kings was Kanishka**, who is thought to have ruled from 78 CE till 101 or 102 CE.

35. _____ is held to be the beginning of the "Saka era" in the Indian calendar.

- a) 10 CE
- b) 78 BCE
- c) 78 CE**
- d) 110 CE

Explanation

Ironically, 78 CE is held to be the beginning of the "Saka era" in the Indian calendar. Historians are hence, divided about Kanishka's period. His rule is said to have started anywhere between 78 and 144 CE.

36. Kanishka was an ardent follower of_____

- a) Jainism
- b) Buddhism**
- c) Hinduism
- d) Sufism

Explanation

Kanishka was an ardent follower of Buddhism and hosted the fourth Buddhist mahasangha or council (the third council had been held in Pataliputra during Asoka's reign). By now Mahayana Buddhism had become the dominant sect, and Kanishka supported the missions sent to China to preach Buddhism.

37. Kushana coins were of the highest quality and conformed to the weight standards of_____ coins

- a) Sakas
- b) Greek
- c) **Roman**
- d) Egyptian

Explanation

Kushana coins were of the highest quality and conformed to the weight standards of Roman coins. In the coins, Kushana rulers are referred to as “king of kings”, “Caesar”, “lord of all lands” and by other such titles. Unfortunately, the titles did not leave much room on the coins for the actual name of the ruler. Hence our information on the Kushana kings tends to be very uncertain.

38. Kanishka’s coins as well as his statue found near_____

- a) Peshwar
- b) Lahore
- c) Lothal
- d) **Mathura**

Explanation

Kanishka’s coins as well as his statue found near Mathura show him dressed in a belted tunic along with overcoat and wearing boots, testifying to his Central Asian origins.

39. The Karakoram highway, a joint project between China and Pakistan, which was completed in_____

- a) 1991
- b) 2019
- c) **1979**
- d) 1999

Explanation

The Karakoram highway, a joint project between China and Pakistan, which was completed in 1979, has yielded great dividends for archaeologists and historians.

40. Which of the following statement is correct?

- 1) The rock of Hunza mentions the first two Kadphises and the Kusanadevapura (son of God) Maharaja Kaniska.
- 2) Buddhist sources record that he had conquered Magadha and Kashmir and Khotan in Sinkiang
 - a) 1 alone
 - b) 2 alone
 - c) 1, 2
 - d) None

Explanation

The **rock of Hunza mentions the first two Kadphises and the Kusanadevapura (son of God) Maharaja Kaniska**. This inscription confirms that Kanishka's empire stretched from Central Asia till eastern India. Buddhist sources record that he had conquered Magadha and Kashmir and Khotan in Sinkiang.

41. Statue found at which place testifies Kanishka to be Central Asian origin?

- a) Pataliputara
- b) **Mathura**
- c) Kalinga
- d) Kashmir

Explanation

Kanishka's coins as well as his statue found near Mathura show him dressed in a belted tunic along with overcoat and wearing boots, **testifying to his Central Asian origins**.

42. Assertion(A): Indian merchants established themselves in various towns in Central Asia and seized the opportunity to become intermediaries in the luxury trade between China and the Roman Empire

Reason(R): Merchants from the West did not want to venture further east beyond Central Asia

- a) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) does not explain (A)
- b) Both (A) and (R) are wrong
- c) **Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) explains (A)**
- d) (A) is Correct and (R) is wrong

Explanation

The artefacts found along the Karakoram highway also establish that this was the route taken by Buddhist monks travelling to China on their mission to spread Buddhism. Merchants followed the missionaries, so this became a major commercial route for the import of Chinese silk and horses from the West into India. **Indian merchants established themselves in various towns in Central Asia and seized the opportunity to become intermediaries in the luxury trade between China and the Roman Empire, since merchants from the West did not want to venture further east beyond Central Asia**

43. Which of the following statement is correct?

- 1) Kushana kings, mostly with their names ending with –shka (among them Huvishka and Vasishka as well as later Kanishkas and even Vasudeva), ruled for at least one century more
 - 2) More things are known about them
 - 3) Clearly the empire was beginning to break down, and the satraps were able to set themselves up as independent rulers in various regional capitals.
- a) 1, 2
 - b) 1, 3**
 - c) 2, 3
 - d) All the above

Explanation

Kushana kings, mostly with their names ending with –shka (among them Huvishka and Vasishka as well as later Kanishkas and even Vasudeva), ruled for at least one century more, but **nothing much is known about them. Clearly the empire was beginning to break down, and the satraps** (the Kushanas also continued the practice of appointing satraps to govern the provinces) **were able to set themselves up as independent rulers in various regional capitals.**

44. which allowed the representation of the person of Buddha in human form?

- a) Mahayana**
- b) Hinayana
- c) Deepavamsam
- d) Digambaras

Explanation

During the reign of Kushanas, there was great creative energy when art and literature flourished. This was partly due to royal patronage and partly due to other factors, like the

growing ascendancy of **Mahayana Buddhism**, which allowed the representation of the **person of Buddha in human form**

45. The Greek influence led to an Indo-Greek style of sculpture and art commonly referred to as_____

- a) Mathura art
- b) Gandhara art**
- c) Kanishka art
- d) Greekan form art

Explanation

The **Greek influence led to an Indo-Greek style of sculpture and art** commonly referred to as **Gandhara art**.

46. Statues of Buddha at which places show him in graceful garments, surrounded by cherubs and leaves inspired by the Greek tradition?

- a) Saravana Belagaula
- b) Mathura
- c) Nallanda
- d) Taxila**

Explanation

Statues of Buddha, sculpted particularly in Taxila and the north-western regions, show him in graceful garments, surrounded by cherubs and leaves inspired by the Greek tradition. But mention must also be made of the red sandstone sculpture with intricate carving produced near Mathura.

47. Which of the following statement is correct?

- 1) The Buddhists began to carve out rock caves in the hills of western India, which served as religious centres with chaityas and viharas, stretching from the Ajanta caves to the Kanheri caves in Mumbai
 - 2) Large statues of Buddha were sculpted in these caves as a part of the Mahayana tradition, and in later centuries, they were further embellished with murals of extraordinary beauty, as seen in the Ellora caves
- a) 1 alone**
 - b) 2 alone
 - c) 1, 2

d) None

Explanation

The Buddhists began to carve out rock caves in the hills of western India, which served as religious centres with chaityas and viharas, stretching from the Ajanta caves to the Kanheri caves in Mumbai. Large statues of Buddha were sculpted in these caves as a part of the Mahayana tradition, and in later centuries, they were further embellished with murals of extraordinary beauty, as seen in the **Ajanta caves**.

48. _____ was the patron of Buddhist philosophers such as Asvaghosha

- a) **Kanishka**
- b) Vasumitra
- c) Chandragupta Maurya
- d) Agnimitra

Explanation

Kanishka was the patron of Buddhist philosophers such as Asvaghosha, Parsva and Vasumitra, as well as the great Buddhist teacher Nagarjuna.

49. _____ is known for his Buddhacharita

- a) Vasumitra
- b) Agnimitra
- c) **Asvaghosha**
- d) Milanada

Explanation

Asvaghosha is known for his Buddhacharita and is celebrated as the author of the first Sanskrit play, Sariputraprakarana, in nine acts.

50. Match the following

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| I. Manusmriti | 1. Kautilya |
| II. Kamasutra | 2. Vatsyayana |
| III. Arthashastra | 3. Brigu |
| a) 2, 1, 3 | |
| b) 3, 2, 1 | |
| c) 1, 3, 2 | |
| d) 1, 2, 3 | |

Explanation

The great dramatist Bhasa, whose plays were re-discovered only about a hundred years ago in South India, most probably belonged to this period. Among the Hindu treatises, we find **the Brigu's Manusmriti, Vatsyayana's Kamasutra and Kautilya's Arthashastra** taking final shape by the second century CE.

51. Gandhara region was influenced by ____ culture

- 1) Greek
- 2) Indian
- 3) Roman
- a) 1, 3
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 2
- d) All the above

Explanation

Situated in the cross-roads of cultural influences, **Gandhara region was influenced by Greek and Roman culture**. Gandhara school of art developed in the first century Common Era.

52. ____ is famous for the portrayal of Buddha in a spiritual state, eyes half-closed in meditation

- a) Taxila
- b) **Gandhara**
- c) Nallanda
- d) Saravana Bellagola

Explanation

During the time of Kushana Empire, in view of its contact with Rome, the techniques of Roman art were assimilated and applied in north-western India. The **Gandhara art is famous for the portrayal of Buddha in a spiritual state, eyes half-closed in meditation**

53. Which of the following statement is correct?

- 1) Southern India remained immune to the political changes taking place in the northern part of the country
- 2) Around the first century CE, the Satavahana kingdom was established in the Deccan area, comprising the modern states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

- 3) This, however, was not like the centralised empire of the Mauryas, and the provincial governors of the Satavahanas did not had a considerable degree of autonomy
- a) 1, 2
 - b) 1, 3
 - c) 2, 3
 - d) All the above

Explanation

Southern India remained immune to the political changes taking place in the northern part of the country. Around the first century CE, the Satavahana kingdom was established in the Deccan area, comprising the modern states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. **This, however, was not like the centralised empire of the Mauryas, and the provincial governors of the Satavahanas had a considerable degree of autonomy**

54. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- 1) The political landscape of the Tamil region was fragmented into small kingdoms, in contrast to the north where extensive empires flourished.
 - 2) The Tamil region was ruled by muvendar, the three kings- chola, pandyas, cheras
- a) 1 alone
 - b) 2 alone
 - c) 1, 2
 - d) None

Explanation

The political landscape of the Tamil region was fragmented into small kingdoms, in contrast to the north where extensive empires flourished. The Tamil region was ruled by muvendar, the three kings – the Pandyas from their capital Madurai, the Cholas from their capital Uraiyur (now a suburb of the city of Tiruchi), and the Cheras from Vanji (modern-day Karur).

55. Which Rock edict of Ashoka mentions about Tamil kingdoms?

- a) III
- b) XIII
- c) II
- d) I

Explanation

We know that these Tamil kings were known to the Mauryas even in the 3rd century BCE and **Asoka's second rock edict mentions them as kingdoms** bordering his empire. However, there were many war lords and chiefs (often referred to as velir) who were ruling over smaller principalities in the region

56. Which of the following statement is correct?

- 1) We have extensive information about the Tamil region coming from the corpus of Tamil poetry collectively known as the Sangam literature
 - 2) They are dating from the second century BCE to the second century CE
 - 3) The very large volume of trade with the Tamil region evoked a great deal of interest among the Roman and Greek historians and geographers, and their accounts complement the information in the Tamil source
- a) 1, 2
 - b) 1, 3**
 - c) 2, 3
 - d) All the above

Explanation

We have extensive information about the Tamil region coming from the corpus of Tamil poetry collectively known as the **Sangam literature, dating from the third century BCE to the third century CE**. To these we can add the epics Silappadikaram and Manimekalai, which were written somewhat later. The very large volume of trade with the Tamil region evoked a great deal of interest among the Roman and Greek historians and geographers, and their accounts complement the information in the Tamil sources, especially with respect to trade.

57. _____ is the most reliable source of information on the ports of the Indian coast and trade

- a) Periplus of Erythrean sea**
- b) Ptolemy's geography
- c) Pliny the elder novel
- d) Silapathigaram

Explanation

A first century CE account in Greek, the **Periplus of the Erythrean Sea (Periplus Maris Erythraei)**, is the most reliable source of information on the ports of the Indian coast and trade. Archaeological findings confirm the information from all these sources.

58. By the end of the last century BCE _____ emerged as the superpower of the Mediterranean world

- a) Turks
- b) Arabs
- c) East India company
- d) **Rome**

Explanation

Two major developments changed the contours of trade between Europe and India towards the beginning of the Common Era. By the end of the last century BCE, **Rome emerged as the superpower of the Mediterranean world**

59. When did Rome republic replaced by empire?

- a) 27 CE
- b) **27 BCE**
- c) 45 CE
- d) 54 CE

Explanation

Rome emerged as the superpower of the Mediterranean world, displacing the Greek kingdoms, and the republic became an empire in 27 BCE under Emperor Augustus. Rome was the largest and, probably, the wealthiest city in the world commanding huge resources realised through conquests in Europe and North Africa

60. The pattern of monsoon winds in the Arabian Sea in the first century CE by_____

- a) Herodatus
- b) **Hippalus**
- c) Pliny
- d) Ptolemy

Explanation

The second development was the discovery of the pattern of monsoon winds in the Arabian Sea in the first century CE by **Hippalus**, an Egyptian sailor.

61. Who had monopoly over knowledge of source regions of products such as cinnamon and pepper?

- a) Arabs
- b) Romans
- c) Turks
- d) Indians

Explanation

Till then, the sea trade between India and the Mediterranean world was controlled by the Arabs. **Arabs had a monopoly of the knowledge of the source regions of products such as cinnamon and pepper, which formed the main export to Rome.**

62. Which of the following statement is correct?

- 1) Rome could thus avoid sailing close to the coastline, which made them vulnerable to attacks by pirates.
 - 2) Further, this also meant that the overland route could be circumvented completely, since traders on that route were also vulnerable to attacks by Parthians in Iran.
 - 3) The ultimate result of the combination of the growing demand from Rome and the opening of the direct sea route to western India was a increase in the number of ships sailing to India from about twenty ships a year to almost one ship a day
- a) 1, 2
 - b) 1, 3
 - c) 2, 3
 - d) **All the above**

Explanation

Arabs had a monopoly of the knowledge of the source regions of products such as cinnamon and pepper, which formed the main export to Rome. But when the information about the direct sea route became common knowledge, Roman ships began to sail directly to the western coast of India. They could thus avoid sailing close to the coastline, which made them vulnerable to attacks by pirates. Further, this also meant that the overland route could be circumvented completely, since traders on that route were also vulnerable to attacks by Parthians in Iran. **The ultimate result of the combination of the growing demand from Rome and the opening of the direct sea route to western India was a increase in the number of ships sailing to India from about twenty ships a year to almost one ship a day**

63. Roman coins and artefacts of the period have been excavated at_____ near pondicherry

- a) Alangulam
- b) **Arikamedu**

- c) Kodumanal
- d) Urayuir

Explanation

Trade had flourished between the Tamil country and Rome even when Rome was a republic. **Roman coins and artefacts of the period have been excavated at Arikamedu, near Pondicherry**, which is said to have been an Indo-Roman trading station.

64. Which place had mines producing beryl, which was a gemstone in high demand in Rome?

- 1) Kodumanal
- 2) Padiyur
- 3) Vaniyampadi
 - a) 1, 2
 - b) 1, 3
 - c) 2, 3
 - d) **All the above**

Explanation

Roman ships did not venture past the western coast of India around Cape Comorin. So the ports on the west coast were the main ports involved in trade with Rome. From the west coast, the Roman traders travelled overland through the Palghat pass to production centres further east. **Kodumanal and Padiyur in Erode and Vaniyampadi near Salem had mines producing beryl, which was a gemstone in high demand in Rome.**

65. Assertion(A): Roman coins of the earlier period are concentrated in Coimbatore, Erode, Salem and Karur districts

Reason(R): Chennimalai near Erode produced iron and steel, which was exported to Rome

- a) Both (A) and (R) are correct, but (R) does not explain (A)
- b) Both (A) and (R) are wrong
- c) **Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) explains (A)**
- d) (A) is Correct and (R) is wrong

Explanation

In addition, **Chennimalai near Erode produced iron and steel** (remnants of furnaces and slag have been found here), which was also exported to Rome. This is the reason why the finds of Roman coins of the earlier period are concentrated in Coimbatore, Erode, Salem and Karur districts.

66. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- 1) By the end of the first century CE, however, Roman ships had begun to sail to ports on the Coromandel (east) coast of Tamil Nadu, and many of these ports are mentioned in the Periplus
 - 2) On the west coast, the main ports were Naura (Cannanore) and Tyndys/Tondi (Ponnani), which were said to be on the northern border of the Tamil country of the Cholas
- a) 1 alone
 - b) 2 alone**
 - c) 1, 2
 - d) None

Explanation

By the end of the first century CE, however, Roman ships had begun to sail to ports on the Coromandel (east) coast of Tamil Nadu, and many of these ports are mentioned in the Periplus. On the west coast, the main ports were **Naura (Cannanore) and Tyndys/Tondi (Ponnani), which were said to be on the northern border of the Tamil country of the Cheras**

67. Which of the following statement is correct?

- 1) Muziris was probably the busiest port on the coast
 - 2) A recently discovered trade agreement written on papyrus between a merchant of Muziris and a merchant of Alexandria indicates the large consignments of cargo carried even by individual merchants
 - 3) According to Sangam poetry, Musiri was the centre of two circuits of trade
- a) 1, 2
 - b) 1, 3
 - c) 2, 3
 - d) All the above**

Explanation

Traditionally identified as Kodungallur, the recently undertaken Muziris excavation locates the port at Pattanam, a few kilometers away. Muziris was probably the busiest port

on the coast. A recently discovered trade agreement written on papyrus between a merchant of Muziris and a merchant of Alexandria indicates the large consignments of cargo carried even by individual merchants. According to Sangam poetry, **Musiri was the centre of two circuits of trade**. Boats came in from the interior carrying rice and took back fish, which indicates a kind of barter trade in the primary consumption goods

68. Which of the following are carried by ships from India to Rome?

- 1) Pepper
 - 2) Pearls
 - 3) Ivory
 - 4) Spikenard
- a) 1, 2, 4
 - b) 2, 3, 4
 - c) 1, 3, 4
 - d) All the above

Explanation

The ships sailing from India to Rome carried **pepper, a large quantity of pearls, ivory, silk cloth, spikenard (a fragrant oil from the Gangetic region which was much in demand for personal use among wealthy Romans) malabathrum**, the leaf of the cinnamon tree, again used as an aromatic, sapphire, beryl, diamonds and tortoiseshell. As Roman ships began to trade with the Coromandel coast, the fine cotton textiles of the region were also exported.

69. _____ was the most important port on the Coromandel coast

- a) Vanchi
- b) Musiri
- c) Kombai
- d) Puhar

Explanation

We find interesting insights into the response of Tamil society to the presence of these foreign merchants. **Puhar was the most important port on the Coromandel coast**. Here, yavana merchants lived in especially ear-marked residential quarters in the harbour area.

70. Which of the following statement is correct?

- 1) Other yavanas also came with the merchants
- 2) The fortress of Madurai was guarded by yavanas carrying large swords

- 3) There are also references to yavana metal workers and carpenters, who were described as "hard-eyed" probably because they had grey or blue eyes
- a) 1, 2
 - b) 1, 3
 - c) 2, 3
 - d) **All the above**

Explanation

Other yavanas also came with the merchants. The fortress of Madurai was guarded by yavanas carrying large swords. There are also references to yavana metal workers and carpenters, who were described as "**hard-eyed**" **probably because they had grey or blue eyes**. All these may not have been strictly of Greek origin, as implied by the term yavana, which had become a generic word to denote persons from the eastern Mediterranean regions.

71. _____ coins have also been found in the bed of the Amaravati river.

- a) Roman
- b) Chola
- c) **Chera**
- d) Pandya

Explanation

The Roman coins that have been found in various centres substantiate this inference. Locally, imitations of Roman coins were also minted, primarily to increase the supply of money in circulation. **Fairly large volumes of Chera coins have also been found in the bed of the Amaravati river.**

72. Yavana merchants lived in_____

- a) Cities
- b) Villages
- c) **Port towns**
- d) None

Explanation

Trade developed between the Tamil country and Rome. Puhar became an important port on Coramandel coast. **Yavana merchants lived in port towns.**