

# UPSC Prelims- 2019

## Ancient and Medieval History & Culture



Questions Asked



Detailed Solutions



Right Approach



PrepMate Ancient and Medieval History & Culture Book Performance



1. With reference to Mughal India, what is/are the difference/differences between Jagirdar and Zamindar?

1. Jagirdars were holders of land assignments in lieu of judicial and police duties, whereas Zamindars were holders of revenue rights without obligation to perform any duty other than revenue collection.

2. Land assignments to Jagirdars were hereditary and revenue rights of Zamindars were not hereditary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Sol. 1 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Source: PrepMate Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Chapter 16, Page 217

Statement 2 is incorrect: Akbar introduced mansabdari system which was based on merit. The system included all the officials included nobles which were also jagirdars. Thus, we can conclude that land assignments to jagirdars were not hereditary.

### Mansabdari System

- Akbar introduced the Mansabdari system in his administration. In this system, the nobility, bureaucracy, and the army, all were given common grades. It was based on the Mongols system.
- Under this system, every officer was assigned a rank (mansab). The lowest rank was 10 and the highest was 5000 for the nobles. Princes of royal blood received even higher ranks.
- Mirza Aziz Koka and Raja Man Singh were honored with the rank of 7000 each.
- Depending upon ranks, *mansabdars* were of three categories—(i) Mansabadars (below 500 Zat), (ii) Amirs (More than 500 but below 2500 Zat), and (iii) Amir-i-Umda/Amir-i-Azam (More than 2500 Zat).
- The ranks were divided into two—(i) Zat and (ii) Sawar.
  - Zat was the personal rank and fixed the person's status and also the salary that a person would receive.
  - Sawar indicated the number of cavalymen (*Sawars*) a person was required to maintain.
- The *Mansab* rank was based on merit and not on hereditary.
- All appointments and promotions as well as dismissals were directly made by the emperor.



## Terms of the Time

**Mir Bakhshi:** Head of military department. The branding of the horses called Dagh was under his supervision.

**Subedar:** Governor of Suba (province).

**Mir Saman:** Official in charge of Royal workshops (Karkhanas).

**Sadr-us Sudur:** Official to protect the laws of the Shariat.

**Waqia Navis:** News reporters.

**Barids:** Intelligence officers.

**Amalguzar:** Official for assessment and collection of the land revenue.

**Khalisa:** Group of villages, income from which went directly to royal exchequer.

**Inam:** Lands, which were allotted to learned and religious men.

**Jagir:** Land allocated to nobles, members of royal family including the queens.

Statement 1 is also incorrect. Jagirdars included people such as nobles. They were not required to perform judicial and police duties.

2. Which one of the following is **not** a Harappan site?

- (a) Chanhudaro
- (b) Kot Diji
- (c) Sohgaura
- (d) Desalpur

Sol. 2 (c) Sohgaura

Source: PrepMate Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Chapter 7 answer explanations, Page 403

Sohgaura is a mauryan period site.

- (a) **Sohagaura** copper-plate in Uttar Pradesh was the earliest known copper-plate. It mentions the Famine relief efforts during the **Mauryan** period. It is one of the very few pre-Asoka *Brahmi* inscriptions in India.

3. 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 I
- (c) Shahbazgarhi
- (d) Sohgaura

Sol.3 (a) Kanganahalli

Topic: Ancient History

The Stone Portrait of Ashoka at Kanaganahalli



The inscription below the portrait written in brahmi script reads "Ranyo Ashoka" (King Ashoka).

4. Consider the following:

1. Deification of the Buddha

2. Treading the path of Bodhisattvas

3. Image worship and rituals

Which of the above is/are the feature/ features of Mahayana Buddhism?

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

Sol. 4 (d) 1, 2 and 3

Source: PrepMate Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Chapter 5, Page 61

Hinayana	Mahayana
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Literally meaning small vehicle.</li> <li>■ Hinayana means less/short journey of Buddha's soul.</li> <li>■ Followed Pali.</li> <li>■ Believed that Buddha would never be reborn.</li> <li>■ Buddha is considered great intellectual and not God.</li> <li>■ The Buddhism preached by the Buddha and propagated by Asoka was known as Hinayana.</li> <li>■ Practiced in Sri Lanka, Tibet, and Myanmar.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Literally meaning large vehicle.</li> <li>■ Mahayana means Great journey of Buddha's soul.</li> <li>■ Followed Sanskrit.</li> <li>■ Believed that Buddha would be born again.</li> <li>■ Defied Buddha and worshipped him as God (idol worship).</li> <li>■ The concept of Bodhisattva is central theme. Bodhisattva is a person who is able to reach nirvana but delays doing so. The person delays on account of compassion towards suffering of others.</li> <li>■ Bodhisattva delays achieving his own salvation to help all sentient beings on their path to it.</li> <li>■ Prevalent today in China and Japan.</li> </ul>

5. With reference to forced labour (Vishti) in India during the Gupta period, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.
- (b) It was totally absent in the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions of the Gupta Empire.
- (c) The forced labourer was entitled to weekly wages.
- (d) The eldest son of the labourer was sent as the forced labourer.

Sol. 5 (a) It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.

Topic: Ancient History

During Gupta period, Vishti was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.

6. Building 'Kalyaana Mandapas' was a notable feature in the temple construction in the kingdom of

- (a) Chalukya
- (b) Chandela
- (c) Rashtrakuta
- (d) Vijayanagara

Sol. 6 (d) Vijayanagara

Source: PrepMate Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Chapter 20, Page 289

This question can be attempted from both selection as well as elimination technique.

Option (a) can be eliminated because Chalukyas were associated with cave temples.

Option (b) can be eliminated because Chandela did not emphasise on large Mandapas in temple. Their famous creation is Kandariya Mahadeva temple in Khajurao.

Option (c) can be eliminated because Rashtrakutas were also not associated with large Mandapas.

Option (d) is the correct answer. 'Kalyaana Mandapas' or wedding hall was built in temples by kingdom of Vijayanagara.

### Virupaksha Temple

Virupaksha temple is located in Hampi, Karnataka. Hampi is an ancient site that once used to be the royal capital of the Vijayanagar Empire but now it is in ruins. The temple was built by Lakkana Dandesha, a chieftain under the ruler Deva Raya II (AD 1422–1446) of the Vijayanagara Empire. Several portions of the temple were expanded and enhanced during the reign of Krishnadevaraya (AD 1509–1529), the most famous ruler of the Vijayanagara dynasty.

The temple is dedicated to Virupaksheshwara (Pampapathi—a form of Lord Shiva). Pampa is believed to be the daughter of Brahma and divine consort of Virupaksha. Thus, the temple is also known as Pampapathi temple. It is completely untouched by the destruction that was seen by many monuments in the 16th century. The gopuram of Virupaksha temple rises to 160 ft with nine tiers.



Gopuram of Virupaksh temple

### Vitthala Temple

Vitthala temple is also located in Hampi, Karnataka. It was built under the rule of King Devaraya II (AD 1422–1446) of the Vijayanagara Empire. This temple was enhanced during the reign of Krishnadevaraya (AD 1509–1529).

The Vitthala temple is also known as Shri Vijaya Vitthala temple. It is dedicated to Lord Vitthala, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

The “mahamandapam” inside the temple is tremendously ornamented. Vitthala temple is also famous for stone chariot. The stone wheels of this chariot are twisted in the form of a lotus.



Vitthala temple complex

7. Consider the following statements:

1. In the revenue administration of Delhi Sultanate, the in-charge of revenue collection was known as 'Amil'.
2. The Iqta system of Sultans of Delhi was an ancient indigenous institution.
3. The office of 'Mir Bakshi' came into existence during the reign of Khalji Sultans of Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Sol. 7 (a) 1 only

Source: PrepMate Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Chapter 13, Page 181 and Chapter 16, Page 217

Statement 2 is incorrect. To cover up his administrative failures, he followed the advice of the ulemas. He pleased the nobles by making the iqta system hereditary. "Iqta" is an Arabic word denoting a regional administrative unit. **The term Iqtadari system was coined by Nizamul Mulk to maintain administration of the Abbassid Empire.** The sultans of Delhi Sultanate effectively used the Iqtadari system for their centralization of power.

The Iqtadari system did not confer any ownership in land as it was subject to transfer. The empire was divided into several "Iqtas," or provinces, or spheres of influence and put under the charge of officers called "Iqtadars" (governors). The number of Iqtas was not fixed. There was no uniformity in their administration. Iqtadar was under the supervision of the Central government and carried on orders of the Sultan. He enjoyed the same powers in the province as the Sultan enjoyed in the empire. He maintained large armies on behalf of the Sultan. To maintain large armies, he was allowed to collect land revenue. The excess amount collected was paid to the exchequer and was called 'Fawazil'.

Statement 3 is also incorrect. The office of Mir Bakshi came into existence during reign of Mughals.





## Terms of the Time

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**Inam:** Lands, which were allotted to learned and religious men.

**Jagir:** Land allocated to nobles, members of royal family including the queens.

8. Consider the following statements:

1. Saint Nimbarka was a contemporary of Akbar.
2. Saint Kabir was greatly influenced by Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Sol. 8 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Source: PrepMate Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Chapter 14, Page 190 and 192

Statement 1 is incorrect. Saint Nimbarka (11<sup>th</sup> century) was not contemporary of Akbar (1542-1605).

### Nimbarka

- He belonged to 11<sup>th</sup> century AD and was from Andhra region.
- He founded Nimandi sect in Mathura.
- His major work is Dasa sloka.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Saint kabir lived earlier than Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

### Kabir (c. 1440–c. 1518)

- According to a legend, he was the son of a Brahman widow, who abandoned him. He was brought up in the house of a Muslim weaver.
- Muslims claim him as Sufi, the Hindus call him Rama-Bhakt and the Sikhs incorporated his songs in the Adi Granth.
- He believed in the existence of one creator.
- He denounced idol-worship, pilgrimages, bathing in holy river, and caste system.
- His beliefs and ideas were reflected in the *dohas* (Sakhi) composed by him. His poetry was forceful and direct.
- His poetry, written in Western Hindi, has colloquial (informal) style and profound symbolism.
- The Kabir's compositions, i.e., *Bijak* is preserved by the Kabir panthis (the sect of Kabir) who consider it as their scripture.
- His birth and death years are not certain.

9. (d) Statement 1 is incorrect: Sheikh Ahmed Sarhandi was contemporary of Akbar and Jahangir.

9. With reference to Mian Tansen, which one of the following statements is **not** correct?

- (a) Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar.
- (b) Tansen composed Dhrupads on Hindu gods and goddesses.
- (c) Tansen composed songs on his patrons.
- (d) Tansen invented many Ragas.

Sol. 9 (a) Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar.

Topic: Medieval History

Option (a) is the answer. The actual name of Tansen was Ram Tanu Pandey. He was given title of 'Tansen' by Raja Man Singh Tomar of Gwalior. Emperor Akbar gave him title of 'Mian'.

10. Who among the following Mughal Emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to album and individual portrait?

- (a) Humayun
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Jahangir
- (d) Shah Jahan

Sol. 10 (c) Jahangir

Source: PrepMate Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Chapter 21, Page 321

### Jahangir's period

Under the reign of Jahangir, miniature painting reached its climax. Jahangir was himself a painter. The **portrait paintings were also developed** during the reign of Jahangir. Bisandas was an expert at portrait painting. Nature painting also gained importance. Jahangir had a great fascination for nature and took delight in the paintings of birds, animals, and flowers. He established a gallery of paintings in his garden. The famous painters during his reign were Abul Hasan, Mansur, Bishan Das, Manohar, Govardhan, etc.

Jahangir took his connoisseurship (taste) of art very seriously. Paintings created under his reign were closely catalogued, dated, and even signed, providing scholars with fairly accurate ideas as to when and in what context many of the pieces were created, in addition to their aesthetic qualities.

The screenshot below taken from PrepMate Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Chapter 21, Page 320 prove that illustrated manuscripts were popular during the reign of Akbar.



**Tutinama**, literally meaning “Tales of a Parrot”, is a 14th-century Persian series of 52 stories. An **illustrated version** containing 250 miniature paintings was commissioned by the Mughal Emperor **Akbar** in the later part of the 16th century. The adventure stories narrated by a parrot, night after night, for 52 successive nights, are moralistic stories to persuade his owner Khojasta not to commit any adulterous act with any lover, in the absence of her husband.



The parrot addresses Khojasta, a scene from the Tutinama, reign of Akbar