

CUET 2026 History May 13 Shift 1

Question Paper (Memory-Based) with Solutions

Conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA)



General Instructions

- (i) The examination will be conducted in Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode.
- (ii) Each question carries +5 marks for correct answer and -1 mark for wrong answer.
- (iii) The total number of questions are 50.
- (iv) Duration of the exam is 1 hour (60 minutes).

1. Who wrote the famous book *Indica*?

- (A) Kautilya
- (B) Megasthenes
- (C) Visakhadatta
- (D) Pliny

Correct Answer: (B) Megasthenes

Solution:

Concept:

Indica is an important ancient account of India written by a Greek ambassador.

It gives information about the Mauryan period, especially about Indian society, administration, cities and customs.

Step 1: Identify the author of *Indica*.

Megasthenes was a Greek ambassador who visited the court of Chandragupta Maurya.

He wrote a famous account of India called:

Indica

Step 2: Understand why the book is important.

Indica is useful for understanding Mauryan India.

It describes the city of Pataliputra, administration, social life and other features of ancient India.

Step 3: Eliminate other options.

Kautilya wrote *Arthashastra*.

Visakhadatta wrote *Mudrarakshasa*.

Pliny was a Roman writer, but he did not write *Indica*.

Step 4: Final conclusion.

Therefore, the famous book *Indica* was written by:

Megasthenes

Quick Tip: Remember: Megasthenes wrote *Indica*, and Kautilya wrote *Arthashastra*.

2. Arrange the following in chronological order:

- A. Establishment of the Mughal empire by Babur
- B. Establishment of the Bahmani kingdom
- C. Emergence of the Sultanates of Ahmadnagar
- D. Establishment of the Gajapati kingdom of Orissa
- E. Establishment of the Vijayanagara Empire

(A) A, B, D, C, E

(B) A, B, C, E, D

(C) E, B, C, D, A

(D) E, B, D, C, A

Correct Answer: (D) E, B, D, C, A

Solution:

Concept:

Chronological order means arranging historical events from earliest to latest.

Here, the events are related to medieval Indian kingdoms and empires.

Step 1: Place the Vijayanagara Empire first.

The Vijayanagara Empire was established in:

1336

So:

E = Establishment of the Vijayanagara Empire

Step 2: Place the Bahmani kingdom next.

The Bahmani kingdom was established in:

1347

So:

B = Establishment of the Bahmani kingdom

Step 3: Place the Gajapati kingdom of Orissa.

The Gajapati kingdom of Orissa emerged after the establishment of the Vijayanagara and Bahmani kingdoms.

So:

D = Establishment of the Gajapati kingdom of Orissa

Step 4: Place Ahmadnagar Sultanate.

The Sultanate of Ahmadnagar emerged after the decline of Bahmani power.

So:

$C = \text{Emergence of the Sultanates of Ahmadnagar}$

Step 5: Place Mughal Empire last.

Babur established the Mughal Empire after the First Battle of Panipat in:

1526

So:

$A = \text{Establishment of the Mughal empire by Babur}$

Step 6: Final sequence.

The correct chronological order is:

$E \rightarrow B \rightarrow D \rightarrow C \rightarrow A$

Hence:

(D) E, B, D, C, A

Quick Tip: Remember the broad sequence: Vijayanagara, Bahmani, Gajapati, Ahmadnagar, Mughal Empire.

3. Consider the following statements about the depiction of massacre of Cawnpore (Kanpur) in the newspaper *Punch*:

- A. An allegorical male figure of justice is depicted.
- B. He bears a sword and shield in his hands.
- C. The figure's posture is aggressive.

- D. The figure is shown trampling sepoy under the feet.
- E. The figure is carrying guns in hands.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) A, B, C only
- (B) A, C, E only
- (C) C, D only
- (D) A, B, D only

Correct Answer: (A) A, B, C only

Solution:

Concept:

The massacre of Cawnpore or Kanpur during the Revolt of 1857 was used by British newspapers and magazines to create strong emotions of anger and revenge.

The newspaper *Punch* published visual representations using allegorical figures.

Step 1: Understand the allegorical figure.

The figure of justice was represented symbolically.

Such allegorical images were used to show British anger and the demand for punishment after the events at Cawnpore.

So:

$A = \text{Correct}$

Step 2: Check the objects carried by the figure.

The figure is shown with a sword and shield.

These objects represent punishment, power, revenge and protection.

So:

$B = \text{Correct}$

Step 3: Check the posture of the figure.

The posture of the figure is aggressive.

This aggressive posture reflects the mood of revenge after the Cawnpore incident.

So:

$C = \text{Correct}$

Step 4: Check the incorrect statements.

The figure is not mainly represented as carrying guns.

Therefore:

$E = \text{Incorrect}$

The correct set from the given options is:

A, B, C

Step 5: Final conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is:

(A) A, B, C only

Quick Tip: British images after the Cawnpore incident used allegory, sword, shield and aggressive posture to create a mood of revenge.

4. Tribal republic of Yaudheyas was located in:

- (A) Malwa region
- (B) Punjab
- (C) Mathura region
- (D) Shravasti

Correct Answer: (B) Punjab

Solution:**Concept:**

The Yaudheyas were an ancient tribal republic known for their martial character. They issued coins and were known from inscriptions and historical sources.

Step 1: Identify the region of Yaudheyas.

The Yaudheyas were mainly located in the north-western region of ancient India. Their area is associated with Punjab and adjoining regions.

Step 2: Eliminate other regions.

Malwa was associated with central India.

Mathura was an important urban and religious centre but not the main location of the Yaudheya tribal republic.

Shravasti was connected with ancient Kosala and Buddhist traditions.

Step 3: Final conclusion.

Therefore, the tribal republic of Yaudheyas was located in:

Punjab

Quick Tip: Yaudheyas were an ancient tribal republic associated mainly with the Punjab and north-western region.

5. Panchayats in the Mughal Empire were assisted by a 'Patwari'. What was the role of the 'Patwari'?

- (A) Judge
- (B) Headman
- (C) Peasant

(D) Accountant

Correct Answer: (D) Accountant

Solution:

Concept:

In the Mughal period, village administration had different local officials.

The village panchayat looked after local matters, and the patwari helped in maintaining records.

Step 1: Understand the function of Patwari.

The Patwari was responsible for maintaining village revenue records.

He kept records of land, cultivation, revenue and related accounts.

Step 2: Identify the correct role.

Since the Patwari maintained records and accounts, his role was similar to an accountant.

So:

Patwari = Accountant

Step 3: Eliminate other options.

The headman was usually called the muqaddam or village head.

The Patwari was not a judge or peasant.

Step 4: Final conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is:

Accountant

Quick Tip: Patwari maintained village land and revenue records, so he worked as an accountant.

6. What was the law that required zamindars to pay their dues by sunset of the specified date,

or else their zamindari would be auctioned?

- (A) Sunset Law
- (B) Sun Law
- (C) Sunshine Law
- (D) Sunrise Law

Correct Answer: (A) Sunset Law

Solution:

Concept:

During British rule, especially under the Permanent Settlement, zamindars had to pay fixed revenue to the British government.

If they failed to pay on time, their estate could be auctioned.

Step 1: Understand the deadline.

The rule required zamindars to pay revenue dues before sunset on the fixed date.

If the payment was not made by sunset, the zamindari could be sold.

Step 2: Identify the name of the law.

Because the deadline was connected with sunset, the rule became known as:

Sunset Law

Step 3: Final conclusion.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

Sunset Law

Quick Tip: Sunset Law meant zamindars had to pay revenue by sunset of the fixed date, otherwise their estate could be auctioned.

7. Prabhavati Gupta was the daughter of which Gupta emperor?

- (A) Chandragupta I
- (B) Chandragupta II
- (C) Samudragupta
- (D) Skandagupta

Correct Answer: (B) Chandragupta II

Solution:

Concept:

Prabhavati Gupta was an important Gupta princess.

She married into the Vakataka dynasty and played an important political role as a queen and regent.

Step 1: Identify Prabhavati Gupta.

Prabhavati Gupta belonged to the Gupta royal family.

She was married to Rudrasena II of the Vakataka dynasty.

Step 2: Identify her father.

Prabhavati Gupta was the daughter of:

Chandragupta II

Chandragupta II is also known as Vikramaditya.

Step 3: Understand historical importance.

Her marriage helped strengthen political relations between the Guptas and the Vakatakas. This alliance was important in ancient Indian politics.

Step 4: Final conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is:

Chandragupta II

Quick Tip: Prabhavati Gupta was the daughter of Chandragupta II and was married into the Vakataka dynasty.

8. In which year was the Deccan Riots Report submitted to the British Parliament?

- (A) 1875
- (B) 1878
- (C) 1880
- (D) 1883

Correct Answer: (B) 1878

Solution:

Concept:

The Deccan Riots were peasant uprisings that took place in western India in 1875. They were mainly caused by rural indebtedness and exploitation by moneylenders.

Step 1: Understand the background.

The riots occurred in:

1875

After the riots, an inquiry was conducted to understand the causes and conditions.

Step 2: Identify the report year.

The Deccan Riots Report was submitted to the British Parliament in:

1878

Step 3: Avoid confusion.

1875 is the year of the riots.

1878 is the year in which the report was submitted.

Step 4: Final conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is:

1878

Quick Tip: Remember: Deccan Riots occurred in 1875, but the Deccan Riots Report was submitted in 1878.

9. Jotedars were also known as:

- A. Haoladars
- B. Zamindars
- C. Gantidars
- D. Bargadars

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) A, D only
- (B) A, B only
- (C) A, C only
- (D) D, B only

Correct Answer: (C) A, C only

Solution:

Concept:

Jotedars were rich peasants or substantial landholders in Bengal.

They controlled large areas of land and often exercised influence over poorer peasants.

Step 1: Identify other names of Jotedars.

In some regions, Jotedars were known by different local names.

They were also called:

Haoladars

and

Gantidars

So:

A = Correct

C = Correct

Step 2: Eliminate wrong options.

Zamindars were revenue-collecting landlords under the Permanent Settlement and were different from Jotedars.

Bargadars were sharecroppers.

So:

B = Incorrect

D = Incorrect

Step 3: Final conclusion.

The correct answer is:

A, C

Hence:

(C) A, C only

Quick Tip: Jotedars were also known as Haoladars and Gantidars, while Bargadars were sharecroppers.

10. Two of the below-given features of Harappan civilization are incorrect. Identify:

- A. It had a planned drainage system.
- B. It consisted mostly of rural settlements.
- C. The road and streets were laid out in a circular pattern.
- D. Most settlements have a bigger higher section and a smaller lower section.
- E. Burials were mostly in the form of pits.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) B, C, D only
- (B) B, D, E only
- (C) C, E only
- (D) D, C only

Correct Answer: (D) D, C only

Solution:

Concept:

Harappan civilization was one of the earliest urban civilizations of the world.

It is famous for town planning, drainage system, baked bricks, grid-pattern streets and organized settlements.

Step 1: Check statement A.

Harappan cities had a well-planned drainage system.

So:

A = Correct

Step 2: Check statement B.

Harappan civilization included many settlements, and a large number of them were small or rural settlements.

So this statement is not treated as incorrect here.

Step 3: Check statement C.

Harappan roads and streets were generally laid out in a grid pattern, not in a circular pattern.

So:

$C = \text{Incorrect}$

Step 4: Check statement D.

In Harappan settlements, the usual description is a smaller higher citadel and a larger lower town.

The statement says a bigger higher section and a smaller lower section.

This reverses the usual pattern.

So:

$D = \text{Incorrect}$

Step 5: Check statement E.

Harappan burials were often found in pits.

So:

$E = \text{Correct}$

Step 6: Final conclusion.

The two incorrect statements are:

D, C

Hence:

(D) D, C only

Quick Tip: Harappan streets followed a grid pattern, and settlements usually had a smaller higher citadel and a larger lower town.