

CUET 2026 May 21 Shift 1 History

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. Match the following (Land Categories in Mughal India):

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| A. Polaj | I. Land left uncultivated temporarily |
| B. Parauti | II. Cultivated every year |
| C. Banjar | III. Uncultivable wasteland |

- (A) A–II, B–I, C–III
- (B) A–III, B–II, C–I
- (C) A–I, B–III, C–II
- (D) A–II, B–III, C–I

Correct Answer: (A) A–II, B–I, C–III

Solution:

Concept: During the Mughal period, especially under Akbar's administration, land was classified according to fertility, cultivation pattern, and productivity. This classification helped in fixing land revenue efficiently.

The major categories included:

- **Polaj** – Regularly cultivated land.
- **Parauti** – Land left uncultivated for a temporary period.

- **Banjar** – Uncultivable wasteland.

Step 1: Understanding Polaj land.

Polaj land was the best category of agricultural land. It was cultivated continuously every year without interruption and produced regular crops.

Therefore:

Polaj $\rightarrow$ Cultivated every year

Hence:

$A \rightarrow II$

Step 2: Understanding Parauti land.

Parauti land was left uncultivated temporarily so that soil fertility could recover naturally before cultivation resumed.

Therefore:

Parauti $\rightarrow$ Land left uncultivated temporarily

Hence:

$B \rightarrow I$

Step 3: Understanding Banjar land.

Banjar referred to barren or wasteland that remained uncultivable for a long period and generally yielded no crops.

Therefore:

Banjar $\rightarrow$ Uncultivable wasteland

Hence:

$C \rightarrow III$

Step 4: Writing the final matching.

Combining all correct matches:

$A - II, B - I, C - III$

Thus, the correct option is:

(A)

Quick Tip: Remember:

Polaj = Productive

Parauti = Pause in cultivation

Banjar = Barren land

2. Who was the Viceroy of India during the Salt March (1930)?

- (A) Lord Irwin
- (B) Lord Curzon
- (C) Lord Chelmsford
- (D) Lord Wavell

Correct Answer: (A) Lord Irwin

Solution:

Concept: The Salt March, also known as the Dandi March, was one of the most important movements of the Indian freedom struggle. It was launched by Mahatma Gandhi against the unjust salt laws imposed by the British government.

Step 1: Recalling the Salt March event.

The Salt March began on:

12 March 1930

from Sabarmati Ashram and ended at Dandi on:

6 April 1930

The movement aimed to protest against the British monopoly on salt production and taxation.

Step 2: Identifying the Viceroy during 1930.

At the time of the Salt March, the Viceroy of India was:

Lord Irwin

He later signed the famous Gandhi-Irwin Pact with Mahatma Gandhi in 1931.

Step 3: Eliminating the incorrect options.

- **Lord Curzon** – Associated with Partition of Bengal (1905).
- **Lord Chelmsford** – Associated with the Jallianwala Bagh period and Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.
- **Lord Wavell** – Viceroy during World War II and the Quit India period.

Thus, the correct answer is:

(A) Lord Irwin

Quick Tip: Remember:

Salt March (1930) → Lord Irwin

and

Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931) → same Viceroy

3. Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. Non-Cooperation Movement
2. Quit India Movement
3. Third Battle of Panipat
4. Arab conquest of Sindh

(A) 4 → 3 → 1 → 2

(B) 3 → 4 → 1 → 2

(C) 4 → 1 → 3 → 2

(D) 1 → 4 → 3 → 2

Correct Answer: (A) 4 → 3 → 1 → 2

Solution:

Concept: Chronology questions require arranging historical events from earliest to latest according to their dates.

Step 1: Finding the date of Arab conquest of Sindh.

The Arab conquest of Sindh took place in:

712 CE

under Muhammad bin Qasim.

Step 2: Finding the date of the Third Battle of Panipat.

The Third Battle of Panipat was fought between the Marathas and Ahmad Shah Abdali in:

1761

Step 3: Finding the date of the Non-Cooperation Movement.

The Non-Cooperation Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi in:

1920

Step 4: Finding the date of the Quit India Movement.

The Quit India Movement was launched in:

1942

Step 5: Arranging the events chronologically.

From earliest to latest:

712 → 1761 → 1920 → 1942

Thus:

4 → 3 → 1 → 2

Hence, the correct option is:

(A)

Quick Tip: Always convert events into years first. Chronology questions become simple once dates are identified correctly.

4. The Tamil work on statecraft *Amuktamalyada* was written by:

(A) Harihara

- (B) Krishnadeva Raya
(C) Bukka Raya
(D) Devaraya II

Correct Answer: (B) Krishnadeva Raya

Solution:

Concept: The Vijayanagara Empire was an important South Indian empire known for political strength, architecture, and literature. Krishnadeva Raya was one of its greatest rulers.

Step 1: Understanding *Amuktamalyada*.

Amuktamalyada is a famous literary work dealing with:

- Statecraft
- Duties of kings
- Administration
- Religious devotion

Step 2: Identifying the author.

The work was written by:

Krishnadeva Raya

who ruled the Vijayanagara Empire during its golden age.

Step 3: Eliminating incorrect options.

- Harihara and Bukka Raya founded the Vijayanagara Empire but were not authors of this text.
- Devaraya II was also a ruler but not associated with *Amuktamalyada*.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

(B) Krishnadeva Raya

Quick Tip: Krishnadeva Raya is remembered both as a powerful ruler and a great literary scholar of South India.

5. Which Buddhist text contains the rules and teachings of the Buddha in discourse form?

- (A) Vinaya Pitaka
- (B) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- (C) Sutta Pitaka
- (D) Jataka

Correct Answer: (C) Sutta Pitaka

Solution:

Concept: The Buddhist sacred literature is collectively known as the **Tripitaka** or “Three Baskets.”

The Tripitaka consists of:

- Vinaya Pitaka
- Sutta Pitaka
- Abhidhamma Pitaka

Step 1: Understanding Vinaya Pitaka.

Vinaya Pitaka contains rules and regulations for monks and nuns living in monasteries.

Step 2: Understanding Sutta Pitaka.

Sutta Pitaka contains:

- Sermons of Buddha
- Discourses
- Moral teachings
- Conversations of Buddha with disciples

Thus, it represents the teachings of Buddha in discourse form.

Step 3: Understanding Abhidhamma Pitaka.

Abhidhamma Pitaka contains philosophical and doctrinal analysis of Buddhist teachings.

Step 4: Understanding Jataka stories.

Jataka stories describe the previous births of Buddha and are not part of the main Tripitaka division asked here.

Step 5: Selecting the correct answer.

Therefore, the Buddhist text containing the teachings and discourses of Buddha is:

Sutta Pitaka

Hence, the correct option is:

(C)

Quick Tip: Remember:

Sutta = Sermons

Vinaya = Rules

Abhidhamma = Philosophy

6. Match the following travellers with their countries:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| A. Ibn Battuta | I. France |
| B. Marco Polo | II. Morocco |
| C. François Bernier | III. Italy |

(A) A–II, B–III, C–I

(B) A–III, B–I, C–II

(C) A–I, B–II, C–III

(D) A–II, B–I, C–III

Correct Answer: (A) A–II, B–III, C–I

Solution:

Concept: Foreign travellers provide valuable historical information about the political, social, and economic conditions of India during different periods.

Step 1: Identifying Ibn Battuta.

Ibn Battuta was a famous traveller and scholar from:

Morocco

He visited India during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

Therefore:

$$A \rightarrow II$$

Step 2: Identifying Marco Polo.

Marco Polo was a well-known merchant traveller from:

Italy

He visited India during the medieval period and wrote detailed travel accounts.

Therefore:

$$B \rightarrow III$$

Step 3: Identifying François Bernier.

François Bernier was a French traveller and physician who visited India during the Mughal period.

Therefore:

$$C \rightarrow I$$

Step 4: Writing the final matching.

Thus:

$$A - II, B - III, C - I$$

Hence, the correct answer is:

(A)

Quick Tip: Remember:

Ibn Battuta = Morocco

Marco Polo = Italy

Bernier = France

7. Who introduced the Permanent Settlement in Bengal?

- (A) Lord Wellesley
- (B) Lord Cornwallis
- (C) Thomas Munro
- (D) Holt Mackenzie

Correct Answer: (B) Lord Cornwallis

Solution:

Concept: The Permanent Settlement was an important land revenue system introduced by the British East India Company in Bengal.

Step 1: Understanding the Permanent Settlement.

The Permanent Settlement was introduced in:

1793

Its main objective was to ensure a fixed and regular revenue income for the British government.

Step 2: Identifying the administrator responsible.

The system was introduced by:

Lord Cornwallis

Under this system:

- Zamindars became hereditary landowners.
- Revenue demand was fixed permanently.
- Zamindars had to pay fixed revenue to the British government.

Step 3: Eliminating incorrect options.

- Lord Wellesley – Associated with Subsidiary Alliance.
- Thomas Munro – Introduced Ryotwari System.
- Holt Mackenzie – Associated with Mahalwari System.

Step 4: Selecting the correct answer.

Therefore, the Permanent Settlement in Bengal was introduced by:

Lord Cornwallis

Hence, the correct option is:

(B)

Quick Tip: Remember:

Permanent Settlement → Cornwallis

Ryotwari → Munro

Mahalwari → Holt Mackenzie

8. “Mulk Abadi” referred to:

- (A) Military administration
- (B) Revenue from forest regions
- (C) Cultivated and inhabited land
- (D) Tax on traders

Correct Answer: (C) Cultivated and inhabited land

Solution:

Concept: The term “Mulk Abadi” was used in medieval Indian administration and land revenue records.

Step 1: Understanding the meaning of the term.

The word:

“Mulk” → territory or region

and

“Abadi” → inhabited or populated area

Together, the term referred to land that was:

- inhabited by people,
- cultivated regularly,

- productive for revenue purposes.

Step 2: Eliminating incorrect options.

- Military administration is unrelated to the term.
- Forest revenue refers to jungle resources.
- Tax on traders refers to commercial taxation.

Step 3: Selecting the correct answer.

Thus, “Mulk Abadi” referred to:

Cultivated and inhabited land

Hence, the correct option is:

(C)

Quick Tip:

Abadi = Populated/Inhabited

This clue helps identify the meaning of the term quickly.

9. Who is known as the “Father of Indian Archaeology”?

- (A) John Marshall
- (B) Alexander Cunningham
- (C) Rakhal Das Banerji
- (D) Mortimer Wheeler

Correct Answer: (B) Alexander Cunningham

Solution:

Concept: Archaeology is the scientific study of ancient remains, inscriptions, monuments, and artefacts to reconstruct history.

Step 1: Understanding Alexander Cunningham’s contribution.

Alexander Cunningham played a pioneering role in the development of archaeology in India. His major contributions include:

- Establishment of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
- Survey and excavation of ancient sites
- Identification of Buddhist remains and monuments
- Systematic archaeological research in India

Because of these contributions, he is called:

Father of Indian Archaeology

Step 2: Eliminating incorrect options.

- John Marshall – Excavated Harappa and Mohenjo-daro.
- Rakhal Das Banerji – Discovered Mohenjo-daro.
- Mortimer Wheeler – Improved excavation techniques in India.

Step 3: Selecting the correct answer.

Therefore:

Alexander Cunningham

Hence, the correct option is:

(B)

Quick Tip: Remember:

ASI Founder → Alexander Cunningham

Hence, he is known as the Father of Indian Archaeology.

10. The treatise containing the conversations and teachings of the Chishti saint Nizamuddin Auliya was written by:

- (A) Amir Khusrau
- (B) Ziauddin Barani
- (C) Hasan Sijzi
- (D) Minhaj-us-Siraj

Correct Answer: (C) Hasan Sijzi

Solution:

Concept: The Chishti Sufi saints played a major role in spreading the message of love, devotion, and tolerance in medieval India.

Step 1: Understanding the teachings of Nizamuddin Auliya.

Nizamuddin Auliya was one of the most famous Chishti saints of India. His teachings emphasized:

- Love for humanity
- Simplicity
- Spiritual devotion
- Service to people

Step 2: Identifying the treatise.

The conversations and teachings of Nizamuddin Auliya were compiled in a work called:

Fawa'id-ul-Fuad

This treatise was written by:

Hasan Sijzi

Step 3: Eliminating incorrect options.

- Amir Khusrau – Famous poet and disciple of Nizamuddin Auliya.
- Ziauddin Barani – Historian of the Delhi Sultanate.
- Minhaj-us-Siraj – Author of *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri*.

Step 4: Selecting the correct answer.

Thus, the correct answer is:

Hasan Sijzi

Hence, the correct option is:

(C)

Quick Tip: *Fawaid-ul-Fuad* is one of the most important sources for understanding the teachings of Nizamuddin Auliya.