

Culture-II & Current Affairs: Prelims Test Series

Max Marks : 100

Max Time : 60 mins

Negative marking as applicable in UPSC CSE will be in operation

For Questions having 2 statements, (a) Only 1 correct (b) Only 2 correct (c) Both correct (d) None

1. Which state has recently announced to legalise hawking?
 - a) Maharashtra
 - b) West Bengal
 - c) Karnataka
 - d) Tripura

2. 1. The RBI monitors two baskets of currencies to arrive at the real effective exchange rate (REER) of the rupee
 2. One is a basket of six currencies and the other is a basket contains 36 currencies of other countries with which India has major external trade.
 3. Former President Mohamed Nasheed belongs to
 - a) Pakistan
 - b) Suriname
 - c) Maldives
 - d) None

4. 1. According to govt estimates, only 4% of 5.77% crore small business units have access to institutional finance, leaving many to rely on informal lenders
 2. The Union Cabinet recently cleared 33 per cent reservation for women in the direct recruitment for non-gazetted posts of constables to sub-inspectors in the police forces of all Union Territories, including Delhi.
 5. What is Chadar Badar?
 - a.) an ancient form of Santhal puppetry
 - b.) a folk dance of Dinajpur, West Bengal
 - c) an embroidery on leaves
 - d) None of these
 6. 1. Scientists are proposing to send a robot submarine to the oily seas of Saturn's moon Titan.
 2. The seas are filled with water and hydrocarbons like methane and ethane.
 7. 1. A train is said to have "overshot" a signal — technically referred to in Indian Railways jargon as 'Signal Passing At Danger', or SPAD — when the driver ignores a red signal asking him to stop
 2. A red signal can be crossed as a result of human error, like the driver failing to sight the signal, or not reacting to it. It can also be due to a mechanical or equipment failure, such as the brakes not working for some reason
 8. Who / which organisation has been selected for the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2014?
 - a. ICHR
 - b ISRO
 - c H L Dattu
 - d None of these
 9. 1. The Houthis are followers of the Shia Zaidi sect, the faith of around a third of Yemen's population.
 2. The group began as a movement preaching tolerance and peace in the Zaidi stronghold of North Yemen in the early 1990s.
 10. 1. "Blind thrust" quakes are ones that do not break the surface, and tend to be more frequent.
 2. Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2014 was initiated by an MP from the ruling political party

11. 1. The Hubble Space Telescope — a joint venture between NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) — was launched in its orbit 552 km above Earth on April 24, 1990 by the space shuttle Discovery
2. **The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Second Amendment) Bill 2014, seeks to amend the Constitution to introduce a goods and services tax (GST) which will subsume various Central indirect taxes, including the Central Excise Duty, Countervailing Duty, Service Tax, value added tax (VAT), octroi and entry tax, luxury tax, among others.**

12. What is the Rs. 20,000 crore Namami Gange project?

- a) is spread over five years and covers 41 tributaries of Ganga
- b) has been assigned the task of cleaning Ganga
- c) project plans to de-pollute Ganga & Yamuna both
- d) None of these

13. 1. During the Harappan period, cities were surrounded by a moat

2. During the second urbanisation, cities had protective walls and at four cardinal points, there were gateways.

14. Which of the following is NOT correct about Asokan pillars?

- i. They were generally made of sandstone
 - ii. They were generally considered to be monoliths
 - iii. The lion is a crowning animal on Vaishali pillar.
- a) All b) i & ii c) i & iii d) None

15. Buddhist significance / relation of / with Lotus is

- a) Buddha's first sermon
- b) Siddhartha took 7 steps after his birth
- c) Future Buddha into his mother's womb
- d) Departure of Siddhartha from residence

16. "Sopanas" in a stupa are

- a) Gateway b) circular base c) Body d) Staircase

17. 1. Stupas at Amravati was made up of white marble

2. Ayaka-khambas are free-standing pillars kept at four cardinal points along the periphery of the Andap

18. The Lomas Rishi caves were dedicated by Asoka to
 a) Buddhists b) Ajivikas c) Jainas d) Lokyats

19. 1. Aisle is the place in a chaitya where monks assembled for prayers
 2. Nave served as the pradakshina-patha

20. Double-storeyed Viharas called Ranigumpha are in
 a) Rajgir hills b) Barabar hills c) Udaygiri hills d) Khandagiri Hills

21. The below figure represents
 a) Kailasa Temple, Ellora b) Kandaria Mahadeo c) Virupaksha Temple d) None of these



22. 1. The caves at Ellora (7th – 8th centuries) represent the last phase of Buddhist cave architecture in western India.
 2. Their architecture and sculpture shows some continuities with earlier centuries, but there are also some changes.
 These include an increase in the size of the side shrines and a double row of stone benches.

23. The Vishnu temple at Eran have
 a) Flat roof & shallow pillars b) Low shikhar c) Second storey d) None of these

24. Dasavatar Temple at Deogarh, Jhansi is built of
 a) Brick b) brick & stone c) stone d) marble

25. The Vesara style of temple architecture is prevalent between
 a) Himalayas & Vindhya
 b) Vindhya & Kanyakumari
 c) Vindhya & Krishna river
 d) Krishna & Kanyakumari

26. "Rathakas" are
 a) Projections coming out from each face of the Nagara-type temple
 b) Cruciform shape to Vesara type temples
 c) Circular perimeter against Vesara temples

d) None of these

27. In a proto-typical Odisha type temple, identify the correct statement

- a) Jagmohan is in between the Nat-mandir & Bhog Mandir
- b) Nat-mandir is at the entrance
- c) There is a succession of receding platforms on top of Jagmohan
- d) Sanctum Cella has flat roof

28.1. In Mamallapuram, the cave facade of the Pallava style is generally plain with dvarapalas usually marking the two ends.

2. The sanctum contains a linga or images of Shiva, Vishnu or Brahma.

29. The Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar is built of

- a) Laterite
- b) sandstone
- c) Both a & b
- d) black stone

30. Ardha-Mandapas could be traced in

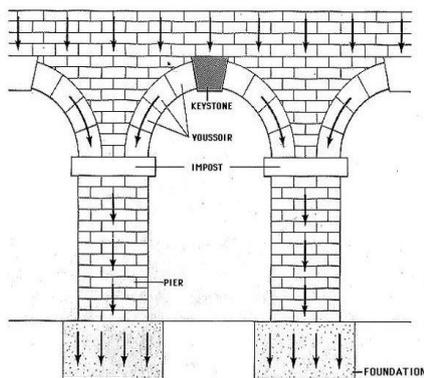
- a) Odishan temples
- b) Central Indian temples
- c) Gupta-styled temples
- d) None



31.

The above figure represents

- a) Brihadishvara temple
- b) Konark temple
- c) Lingaraja temple
- d) Lad Khan temple



32.

With respect to the above schematic figure, which of the following is/are correct?

- a) A **keystone** is the wedge-shaped stone piece at the apex of a masonry vault or arch, which is the final piece placed during construction and locks all the stones into position, allowing the arch to bear weight
- b) A **voussoir** is a wedge-shaped element, typically a stone, used in building an arch or vault

- c) In architecture, an **impost** is a projecting block resting on top of a column or embedded in a wall, serving as the base
- d) All of these

33. Which of the following about Qutb Minar is true?

- i. It has the feature of stalactite honeycombing
- ii. The fourth storey was built by Feroze Shah Tughluq
- iii. Construction started before 1200 CE
- a) i only b) i & ii c) i & iii d) iii only

34. First true arch in the sub-continent is extant in

- a) Alai Darwaza b) Tomb of Iltutmish c) Tomb of Balban d) Tomb of Razia

35. The innovative aspect of Sultan Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq's tomb is

- a) Double Dome b) was built by himself c) pietra-dura d) battering walls

36. Which of the following is incorrect about Humayun's Tomb?

- a) It has cupolas
- b) It is surrounded by a rectangular garden
- c) It is built of white marble & red sandstone
- d) It has a single dome

37. 1. Tomb of Salim Chisti within Fatehpur Sikri complex is made of White Marble

2. The principal harem in the complex is called Jodh Bai's palace

38. The art of Pietra-dura in the subcontinent started with

- a) Ghiyasuddin Tughluq's Tomb
- b) Taj Mahal
- c) Bibi-ka-Maqbara
- d) Iimad-ud-daula's Tomb

39. 1. Mughal miniature painting is actually derived from the Iranian school

2. It started during the period of Akbar

40. Who, among the following was a leading painter in Akbar's court, who was a son of a potter?

- a) Abd-as-Samad b) Sayyid Ali c) Daswanth d) Basawan

41. Which of the following was a Persian translation of Arabic work on music?

- a) Kitab Farighuz b) Ghuniyat-ul-Muniya c) Tuhfat-ul-Hind d) None of these

42. Which of the following is not attributed to Amir Khusrau?

- a) Khayal b) Tarana c) Qawwal d) None of these

43. Identify the correct statement(s)

- i. Sovereign Gold Bonds are to be linked to the price of gold, and issued by the central bank (Reserve Bank of India).
- ii. It is proposed that banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and post offices will be able to collect money and redeem the bonds on behalf of the government.
- iii. The bonds are to be issued in denominations of two, five and 10 grams of gold with a minimum tenor of five to seven years.

- a) i only b) i & ii c) ii only d) All

44. 1: The five countries forming BRICS are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

2. The bank will be based in Manila

45. 1: "Operation Golden Bird" was conducted at the Myanmar-Mizoram border in April-May 1995 by India & Myanmar

2: "Operation All Clear" was officially conducted by India & Bhutan inside Bhutan in December 2003 to eliminate North Eastern militant groups based in South Bhutan

46. 1: By hiking the Minimum Support Prices of pulses significantly, will their cultivation become more attractive over the growing of other crops.

2: Despite years of trying, no amount of R&D has increased the yield of pulses significantly, unlike cereals which saw a huge increase in productivity due to technological advances

3: Another reason for the poor level of yields is that farmers are increasingly growing pulses on inferior land.

Which of the above is/are true?

- A) All b) None c) Only 1 d) 1 & 2 only

47. 1: Vikramaditya, acquired from Russia for \$2.3 billion, was commissioned into the Navy in November 2013 without the crucial air-defence systems

2: The French-supplied Barak-1 point defence missile system and the Israeli-origin AK-630 close-in weapon system, borrowed from a to-be-decommissioned Godavari-class ship, were installed on the carrier.

48. 1: Government of India has allocated Rs. 200 crore for three years to set up an online national agriculture market by integrating 585 wholesale markets across India
2: The Department of Agriculture will set it up by creation of a common electronic platform deployable in selected regulated markets across the country

49. Reserve Bank of India decided to announce Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statements—once every two months from April 1, 2014. This statement is in keeping with the recommendation of the

- a) Bibek Debroy Panel b) Urjit Patel Committee c) Raghuram Rajan Committee d) None of these

50. 1: In 2011, RBI introduced the Marginal Standing Facility as a window through which the commercial banks can borrow from the RBI at a rate that is 1% more than the repo rate

2: Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) covers credit at repo and reverse repo rates.