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1. Attempt any two of the following:

A) Explain the rise of Chandragupta Maurya and examine his imperial expansion.

Answer: Chandragupta Maurya – Introduction – sources – Background of Chandragupta – his meeting with Alexander – unpopularity of Greek rule – liberation of India from Greek rule – overthrow of Nanda rule – expansion into western India – war against Selucus – extent of his empire – last days and evaluation – conclusion

B) Critically evaluate the Mauryan administration.

Answer: Mauryan administration – Introduction – sources – polity – the king – council of ministers – bureaucracy – income and expenditure – provincial administration – municipal administration – espionage – judicial administration – military organization – conclusion.

C) Review the career of Pushyamitra Sunga in Ancient Indian history.

Answer: Introduction – sources – Pushyamitra Sunga – conquest of Vidarbha – asvamedh sacrifice – extent of his empire – persecution of the Buddhist – his successors – socio – cultural contribution

2. Attempt any two of the following:

A) Describe the achievements of Emperor Chandragupta I.

Answer: Chandra Gupta – introduction – sources – their origin – early history – founder of the dynasty – matrimonial alliances – expansion – conclusion

B) Comment on the central and provincial administration during the Gupta period.

Answer: Introduction – sources – the king – theory of divine kingship – council of ministers – central and provincial administration – kumaramatyas and ayuktas – district and village administration – city administration – decentralization of authority – conclusion

C) Describe the development of science and technology during the Gupta period.

Answer: Gupta Golden age / Classical age – introduction – sources – social conditions – economic prosperity – progress in language and literature – development of science and technology – mathematics – Aryabhata – astronomy Varahamihira, Brahmagupta – medicine - Sushruta – metallurgy – pillar at Mehrauli – conclusion

3. Attempt any two of the following:

A) Trace the achievements of Harshavardhana.

Answer: Political disintegration after the Guptas – brief background of the Pushyabhutis - Prabhakarvardhana – marriage of daughter Rajyashri to Maukhari ruler – war with later Guptas – death of Prabhakarvardhana – succession of Rajyavardhana – conspiracy of Shashanka – death of Rajyavardhana – accession of Harshavardhana – expansion and consolidation of power – efficient administration – benevolent despot – patronage to all religions – Hieun – Tsang's visit

B) Explain the importance of the Rajputs in Ancient India.

Answer: Origin of the Rajputs – important clans – Gurjara-Pratiharas of Ujjain – conflict with Rashtrakutas for supremacy over Central India, rise of the Solankis of Gujarat,

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Chandelas of Kalinjar, Bundelkhand, Paramaras of Malwa, Gahadavalas of Kanauj, Chauhans of Ajmer and Tomaras of Delhi – expansion into central India and the Gangetic plains

C) Bring out the causes and effects of the Arab invasion of Sind.

Answer: Brief background of Arab invasion – causes of invasion – rise of Islam – desire for expansion – capture of trade routes – piracy in the seas – nature of invasion – effects – ‘triumph without results’ – more military than political and administrative – imposition of jiziya – demolition and reconstruction of temples – inter-marriage with Hindu women – progress in trade and commerce – significance – adoption of Arab numerals – Indian subjects studied by Arab scholars – translation of Indian works into Arabic – Buddhist aspects adopted by Sufis – Indian cultural links with Arab and European world established

4. Attempt any two of the following:

A) Write a detailed note on Pulakeshin II.

Answer: Introduction of the Chalukyas of Badami – period of Pulakeshin II's rule – life sketch – consolidation of power – imperial expansion – eastwards expedition – wars with the Pallavas – other military campaigns – diplomatic missions – war with Harshavardhana – defeat by Mahendravarman – death – estimate

B) Highlight the political history of the Pallavas.

Answer: Rise of the Chalukyas of Badami – early rulers – Pulakeshin I, Kirtivarman I, Pulakeshin II – conquests and expansion, conflict with Pallavas – war with Harshavardhana – Pulakeshin II's successor – Vikramaditya II – decline of Chalukyan power under Kirtivarman II

C) Briefly describe the impact of Indian culture on South-east Asia.

Answer: Contact with south-east Asia since the beginning of Christian era – trade and commerce – religious interactions – impact on south-east Asia – Brahmannical and Buddhist impact – examples of various countries of the region – influence on social life – dress, position of women, past-time and recreational activities, literature and inscriptions – influence on religion – Hinayana and Mahayana forms of Buddhism, Pauranic form of worship, Shaivism, Vaishnavism – influence on art and architecture – temples, statues, stupas – Angkor Wat, Borobudur, pagodas – features of Indian iconography

5. Write notes on any two of the following:

a) Emperor Ashoka and the Kalinga War

Sources – accession – 13th rock edict – causes of conquest of Kalinga – effects – remorse – abandoning of policy of digvijaya – embracing policy of dhammavijaya – conversion to Buddhism

b) Emperor Samudragupta

Introduction – sources – accession to throne – imperial expansion – north campaign – expedition to south – subjugation of tribes – his empire – his estimate

c) Harshavardhana's religious policy

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Harshavardhana as patron of all religions – Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism – source of information – writing of Hiuen Tsang – Buddhist patronage – Kannauj Assembly – Prayag Conference

d) Rashtrakutas

Origin and rise to power – founder Dandidurga – other outstanding rulers – cultural developments – contribution to Literature and religion, development of art and architecture