



ACADEMY OF CIVIL SERVICES

ART AND CULTURE

UPSC PREVIOUS YEARS PRELIMS QUESTIONS (2011-2018)

2013

1) Consider the following historical places:

1. Ajanta caves
2. Lepakshi Temple
3. Sanchi Stupa

Which of the above places is/are also known for mural paintings?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only**
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None

2) In the context of cultural history of India, a pose in dance and dramatics called 'Tribhanga' has been a favourite of Indian artists from ancient times till today.

Which one of the following statements best describes this pose?

- a) One leg is bent and the body is slightly but oppositely curved at waist and neck.**
- b) Facial expressions, hand gestures and make-up are combined to symbolize certain epic or historic characters.
- c) Movements of body, face and hands are used to express oneself or to tell a story
- d) A little smile, slightly curved waist and certain hand gestures are emphasized to express the feelings of love or eroticism.

2014

1) With reference to the famous Sattriya dance, consider the following statements:

1. Sattriya, is a combination of music, dance and drama
2. It is a centuries old living tradition of Vaishnavites of Assam.
3. It is based on classical Ragas and Talas of devotional songs composed by Tulsidas, Kabir and Mirabai.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2) Consider the following pairs:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------|
| 1. Garba | : | Gujarat |
| 2. Mohiniattam | : | Odisha |
| 3. Yakshagana | : | Karnataka |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

3) With reference to Buddhist history, tradition and culture in India, consider the following pairs:

- | Famous shrine | | Location |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 1) Tabo monastery and temple complex | : | Spiti Valley |
| 2) Lhotsava Lhakhang temple, Nako | : | Zaskar Valley |
| 3) Alchi temple complex | : | Ladakh |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only**
 - d) 1, 2 and 3
- 4) A community of people called Manganiyars is well-known for their
- a) Martial arts in North-east India
 - b) Musical tradition in North-west India**
 - c) Classical vocal music in South India
 - d) Pietra dura tradition in Central India

2015

- 1) Which one of the following was given classical language status recently?
- a) Odia**
 - b) Konkani
 - c) Bhojpuri
 - d) Assamese
- 2) Kalamkari painting refers to
- a) A hand-painted cotton textile in South India**
 - b) A handmade drawing on bamboo handicrafts in North-East India
 - c) A block-painted woolen cloth in Western Himalayan region of India
 - d) A hand-painted decorative silk cloth in North-Western India

2016

- 1) What is/are common to the two historical places known as Ajanta and Mahabalipuram?
- 1. Both being built in the same period.
 - 2. Both belong to the same religious denomination.
 - 3. Both have rock-cut monuments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) None of the statements given above is correct.

2017

1) With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a song and dance performance.
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1, 2 and 3

b) 1 and 3 only

c) 2 and 3 only

d) 1 only

2) Which of the following is/are famous for Sun temples?

1. Arasavalli
2. Amarakantak
3. Omkareshwar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

2018

1) Consider the following pairs:

Tradition

State

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------|
| 1) Chapchar Kut Festival | : | Mizoram |
| 2) Khongjom Parba Festival | : | Manipur |
| 3) Thang-Ta dance | : | Sikkim |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
 - b) 1 and 2**
 - c) 3 only
 - d) 2 and 3
- 2) The well-known painting “Bani Thani” belongs to the**
- a) Bundi school
 - b) Jaipur school
 - c) Kangra school
 - d) Kishangarh school**