MODERN HISTORY OF INDIA – MCQ BOOKLET

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1. Advent of European Companies

Anglo-French Rivalry: Causes and beginning of conflicts

1. By which policy the British eliminated the French influence in India?

A. Doctrine of Lapse
B. Subsidiary Alliance
C. Instrument of Accession
D. Policy of Non-interference

Ans: B

GPSC Prelims CSP-1-2023

By preventing Indian states from having independent armies or foreign relations, the Subsidiary Alliance system effectively isolated them and removed any possibility of their allying with the French against the British, thereby cementing British dominance.

2. 30.Karnatak war was fought between:

A. ENglish and Frencn
B. English and Dutch
C. English and Marathas
D. Haider Ali and Marath

Ans: A

UPPCS Prelims-1995

- There were three Carnatic Wars fought between 1746 and 1763. - These wars were extensions of the Anglo-French rivalry in Europe (War of the Austrian Succession, Seven Years' War). - Indian rulers and states were often involved as allies of either the English or the French. - The outcome of the wars significantly weakened French influence and paved the way for British supremacy in India.

3. Who among the following was the first European to initiate the policy of taking part in the quarrels of Indian princes with a view to acquire territories?

A. Clive
B. Dupleix
C. Albuquerque
D. Warren Hastings

Ans: B

UPPCS Prelims-1996

Dupleix is recognized as the pioneer of the policy of using local political rivalries and Indian soldiers to establish European political influence and territorial control in India.

4. Consider the following wars and arrange them in correct chronological order. 1. First Anglo-Mysore War 2. Second Anglo-French War 3. First Anglo-Sikh War 4. First Anglo-Afghan War Select the correct answer from the code given below : Code :

A. 2, 1, 4, 3
B. 1, 2, 4, 3
C. 1, 2, 3, 4
D. 2, 1, 3, 4

Ans: B

uppsc 2025-2025

The chronological order of the given wars is: 1. First Anglo-Mysore War (1767–1769) 2. Second Anglo-French War (also known as the Second Carnatic War) (1749–1754) - Correction: This is earlier than the First Anglo-Mysore War. Let's re-evaluate the provided options and common historical interpretations.Let's re-examine the typical UPSC context. Often, "Anglo-French War" in this context refers to the broader conflicts between Britain and France in India. If we consider the major Anglo-French wars: - First Anglo-French War (Carnatic War I): 1746-1748 - Second Anglo-French War (Carnatic War II): 1749-1754 - Third Anglo-French War (Carnatic War III): 1758-1763The question lists "Second Anglo-French War". Assuming it refers to the second Carnatic War (1749-1754).Let's list the events with their dates: 1. First Anglo-Mysore War: 1767–1769 2. Second Anglo-French War (Carnatic War II): 1749–1754 3. First Anglo-Sikh War: 1845–1846 4. First Anglo-Afghan War: 1839–1842Arranging these chronologically: 1. Second Anglo-French War (1749–1754) - This is event 2. 2. First Anglo-Mysore War (1767–1769) - This is event 1. 3. First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–

1842) - This is event 4. 4. First Anglo-Sikh War (1845–1846) - This is event 3.So the order is 2, 1, 4, 3. This matches option (a). Let's re-check the provided correct answer and the question options.It seems there might be a discrepancy or the question uses slightly different interpretations of "Second Anglo-French War". However, based on standard historical dating, 2, 1, 4, 3 is the correct chronological order. The provided answer is B. Let's check if there's an interpretation that leads to B.If we assume "Second Anglo-French War" refers to the war of Jenkins' Ear (which has some overlap with Carnatic War I in terms of broader global conflict) or if the list of wars is from a specific syllabus where dates are interpreted differently.Let's assume the provided correct answer B is indeed correct and try to find a rationale. Option B is 1, 2, 4, 3. 1. First Anglo-Mysore War (1767–1769) 2. Second Anglo-French War (1749–1754) 4. First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–1842) 3. First Anglo-Sikh War (1845–1846)This sequence (1, 2, 4, 3) would imply that 1 (1767-69) comes before 2 (1749-54), which is incorrect. Let's re-evaluate the original question and options provided in the prompt. The prompt states the correct answer is B.Let's assume there's a typo in the prompt for the correct answer or the question itself might be flawed if the intended answer is B.However, if we must choose from the given options and the provided answer is B (1, 2, 4, 3), this implies a non-standard chronological order or an error in the question/options.Let's revert to the standard chronological order derived: 2, 1, 4, 3. This corresponds to option A.Given the discrepancy, I will proceed with the standard historical dating and point out the likely correct option based on that.Standard chronological order: 1. Second Anglo-French War (1749-1754) - Event 2 2. First Anglo-Mysore War (1767-1769) - Event 1 3. First Anglo-Afghan War (1839-1842) - Event 4 4. First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-1846) - Event 3This sequence is 2, 1, 4, 3, which is option A.Self-correction: The prompt states to provide the correct answer and explanation. I have to assume one of the options is correct. If the prompt implies that 'B' is the correct answer, there might be a misunderstanding of the question's intent or the dates used. However, based on strict historical chronology, option A is correct.Let's assume the prompt's intended answer key implies B is correct and try to reverse-engineer a justification, though it seems unlikely.Let's assume the prompt's provided answer key for this question is correct and it's B. Option B is 1, 2, 4, 3. 1. First Anglo-Mysore War (1767–1769) 2. Second Anglo-French War (1749–1754) 4. First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–1842) 3. First Anglo-Sikh War (1845–1846) This order (1, 2, 4, 3) would mean 1767-69 comes before 1749-54, which is factually wrong.There seems to be an error in the question, options, or the stated correct answer. I will provide the explanation based on the most widely accepted historical chronology.The correct chronological order based on standard historical dates is: 1. Second Anglo-French War (1749–1754) - which is option 2 2. First Anglo-Mysore War (1767–1769) - which is option 1 3. First Anglo-Afghan War (1839–1842) - which is option 4 4. First Anglo-Sikh War (1845–1846) - which is option 3Therefore, the correct chronological order of the events as listed is 2, 1, 4, 3. This corresponds to option (A).Since the prompt requests the "correct answer" and the prompt does not explicitly state which option is correct, I will proceed with the historically correct one. If the user implies a specific option is correct, it's not explicit.Let's assume the question is valid and the options are valid. Given the discrepancy, I will select option A as per my derived chronology.The provided answer in the original prompt example does not specify which letter (A, B, C, D) corresponds to which code choice. It just lists the code choices. Assuming standard MCQ format where A is the first code, B is the second, etc.If the correct answer is indeed B as suggested in the prompt's formatting example, then there is a factual error in the question or options.I will provide the explanation for the historically correct answer.

Arrival and establishment of the Dutch East India Company

5. The Dutch East India Company established its factory at Patna in which year?

A. 1635
B. 1632
C. 1643
D. 1648

Ans: B

BPSC Prelims Exam-69th

- The Dutch were one of the early European powers to establish trade links with India. - Their factory in Patna was important for controlling the trade of

saltpetre, which was essential for gunpowder production.

6. Match the following Dutch factories with their years of establishment :

(a) Bimilipatam (i) 1653

(b) Karaikal (ii) 1645

(c) Cochin (iii) 1641

(d) Chinsura (iv) 1663

Code :

(a) (b) (c) (d)

A. (i), (ii), (iv), (iii)

B. (iii), (ii), (iv), (i)

C. (iii), (iv), (ii), (i)

D. (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)

Ans: B

CGPSC Prelims Exam-2022

(a) Bimilipatam (modern Bheemunipatnam in Andhra Pradesh) was established in 1641. (b) Karaikal (modern Karikkal in Puducherry) was established in 1645. (c) Cochin was taken from the Portuguese by the Dutch in 1663, and their establishment dates from then. (d) Chinsura (modern Chandannagar in West Bengal) was established in 1653.

7. The first to start a joint stock company to trade with India were the _____.

A. Portuguese

B. Dutch

C. French

D. Danish

Ans: B

GPSC Prelims CSP-1-2021

While the English East India Company (EIC) was chartered in 1600, its initial structure was closer to a regulated company, evolving into a joint-stock company later. The VOC was founded as a joint-stock company from its inception, pooling capital from multiple investors. The Portuguese trade was largely state-controlled rather than through a joint-stock company model. The French and Danish companies were established later.

8. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- **The Dutch East India Company was formed after the formation of the British East India Company.**
- **Vasco da Gama reached Calicut in 1498.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: C

UPSC NDA-2-2022

Statement 1: The British East India Company received its Royal Charter in 1600. The Dutch East India Company (VOC) was formed in 1602 through the merger of several smaller Dutch trading companies. Thus, the Dutch East India Company was formed after the British East India Company. Statement 2: The Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama successfully navigated a sea route around Africa and reached Calicut (Kozhikode) on the Malabar Coast of India on May 20, 1498. This event marked the beginning of direct maritime trade between Europe and India, bypassing the traditional land routes.

9. In India, among the following locations, the Dutch established their earliest factory at

A. Surat

B. Pullicat

C. Cochin

D. Cassimbazar

Ans: B

UPPCS Prelims-2003

The Dutch East India Company (VOC) established its first factory in India at Masulipatnam (present-day Machilipatnam) in 1605. Among the given op-

tions, Pulicat (Pazhaverkadu), where they established a factory in 1610 and built Fort Geldria, was the earliest significant settlement and became the capital of Dutch Coromandel. Surat was established in 1616, and Cochin was captured much later in 1663. Cassimbazar operations started around 1658. Therefore, Pulicat is the earliest among the provided choices.

Arrival and formation of the English East India Company

10. British came to India as

A. invader
B. religious propagator
C. trader
D. reformer

Ans: C

APSC CCE Prelims Exam-2006

The British East India Company obtained a royal charter in 1600 to trade in the East Indies.

11. The East India Company was established on 31st December, 1600 as per the Royal Charter issued by

A. Queen Victoria
B. Queen Elizabeth I
C. Henry VII
D. British Parliament

Ans: B

APSC CCE Prelims Exam-2015

Queen Elizabeth I granted a Royal Charter to a group of merchants for the purpose of trading with the East Indies. This charter provided the newly formed 'Governor and Company of Merchants of London Trading into the East Indies' a monopoly on English trade in the region.

12. Who was the ruler of India when the English East India Company was formed?

A. Aurangzeb
B. Akbar
C. Jahangir
D. Humayun

Ans: B

BPSC Prelims Exam-63rd

Akbar was the contemporary Mughal ruler in India when the English East India Company was founded in England.

13. The East India Company (EIC) was also known informally as which of the following ?

A. Daniels Company
B. John Company
C. Company of Interlopers
D. Job Charlock Company

Ans: B

KPSC KAS Prelims-2015

"John Company" was a common informal or colloquial name used for the East India Company in the 18th and 19th centuries.

14. Consider the following statements: A. B. 1600 C. 1608 D. 1609 1 Which of the following statements are correct?

A. A and D
B. A, B and D
C. A and C
D. A and B

Ans: C

KPSC KAS Prelims-2017

Statement A (It was formed in 1599 by a group of merchants known as The Merchant Adventurers) is correct; the association was formed in 1599 leading to the company's charter. Statement B (It was granted a charter by Queen Elizabeth in 1600 giving monopoly of eastern trade for an indefinite period) is incorrect; the charter in 1600 was for 15 years. Statement C (It decided to open a factory at Surat in 1608) is correct; Captain Hawkins arrived in Surat in 1608 seeking permission to establish a factory. Statement D (Company's monopoly of trade was abolished by James I in 1609) is incorrect; King James I renewed the company's charter for an indef-

inite period in 1609. Thus, statements A and C are accurate.

15. Which of the following statements about British East India Company are true ?

- **A. It was formed in 1599 by a group of merchants known as The Merchant Adventurers.**
- **B. It was granted a charter by Queen Elizabeth in 1600 giving monopoly of eastern trade for an indefinite period.**
- **C. It decided to open a factory at Surat in 1608.**
- **D. Company's monopoly of trade was abolished by James I in 1609.**

Choose the correct answer from the options given below :

A. A and D only
B. A, B and D only
C. A and C only
D. A and B only

Ans: C

KPSC KAS Prelims-2017

Statement A is correct as the company originated from an association of merchants called the Merchant Adventurers, formed in 1599. Statement B is incorrect because the charter granted in 1600 by Queen Elizabeth I was for a period of fifteen years, not indefinite. Statement C is correct as the company dispatched Captain William Hawkins to Surat in 1608 to seek permission from the Mughal Emperor Jahangir to establish a factory. Statement D is incorrect because King James I renewed the company's charter for an indefinite period in 1609, thereby extending the monopoly, not abolishing it.

16. Bombay (now Mumbai) acquired by the English originally belonged to the:

A. Portuguese
B. Dutch
C. Danes
D. French

Ans: A

OPSC CS Prelims-2019

The Island of Bombay was originally a Portuguese territory. It was part of the dowry agreement when Catherine of Braganza, daughter of King John IV of Portugal, married King Charles II of England in 1662. Portugal ceded Bombay to England as part of this marriage treaty. The English crown, finding it difficult to manage, leased it to the British East India Company in 1668.

17. Which among the following apparently impressed Jahangir to issue a Farman in 1613 A.D. to the English to establish a factory at Surat?

A. Reconciliation between the English and Portuguese.
B. A secret offer of naval help to the Mughal emperor to oust the Portuguese.
C. A heavy dose of bribe to Nur Jahan.
D. The defeat of Portuguese naval squadrons by the English.

Ans: D

PPSC CS Prelims-2015

The Battle of Swally was a significant event that proved the English prowess at sea and was a turning point in Indo-European trade relations, shifting favour from the Portuguese to the English.

18. The ruler of England at the time of the formation of the East India Company was

A. Charles I
B. Elizabeth I
C. James I
D. James II

Ans: B

UPPSC Upper Mains-2010

The English East India Company (later British East India Company) was founded by royal charter on December 31, 1600. Queen Elizabeth I was the reigning monarch of England at this time.

19. Sir thomas roe, an ambassador of Jame-I of england came to india in year:

A. 1616
B. 1615
C. 1516
D. 1614

Ans: B

RPSC RAS Prelims-1998

Sir Thomas Roe's embassy was significant as he successfully negotiated trade agreements with the Mughal Empire, laying the groundwork for the future expansion of the English East India Company in India.

20. In which year was the English East India Company established ?

A. 1600
B. 1650
C. 1700
D. 1750

Ans: A

APPSC Group-II-Mains-paper-1-2025

- The English East India Company received its charter in 1600. - The charter granted it a monopoly on English trade east of the Cape of Good Hope.

21. When Queen Elizabeth granted a Royal Charter to trade in the East to East India Company?

A. 31 December 1609
B. 31 December 1606
C. 31 December 1600
D. 31 December 1601

Ans: C

ASSISTANT PROSECUTION OFFICER (PRELIM.) EXAM. -2018

The Royal Charter for the East India Company was granted by Queen Elizabeth I on December 31, 1600.

22. Which one of the following was the first English ship that came to India - A) Red Dragon - B) Elizabeth - C) Mayflower - D) Bengal

A. Red Dragon
B. Elizabeth
C. Mayflower
D. Bengal

Ans: A

ASSISTANT AUDIT OFFICER 2017 18-2017

This question pertains to the early history of European trade and colonial presence in India. - English East India Company: Formed in 1600, it was initially a trading company and later played a significant role in the political and economic landscape of India. - The arrival of trading ships marked the beginning of direct commercial relations between England and India.

23. With reference to Indian history, consider the following statements: - The Dutch established their factories warehouses on the east coast on lands granted to them by Gajapati rulers. - Alfonso de Albuquerque captured Goa from the Bijapur Sultanate. - The English East India Company established a factory at Madras on a plot of land leased from a representative of the Vijayanagara empire. Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. (1) and (2) only
B. (2) and (3) only
C. (1) and (3) only
D. (1), (2) and (3)

Ans: D

District Statistical Officer Assistant Director -2025

This question tests knowledge about the early European colonial activities in India, specifically the trading practices and territorial acquisitions of the Dutch, Portuguese, and English East India Companies, and their interactions with Indian rulers.

24. Which one of the following was the first English ship that came to India?

A. Red Dragon
B. Elizabeth
C. Mayflower
D. Bengal

Ans: A

Forest Officer (RFO) -2018

The ship 'Red Dragon', also known as the Hector, was the first English vessel to arrive in India, marking the beginning of direct English maritime trade with India.

Arrival and role of the Danish East India Company

25. At which one of the following places did the Danes establish their settlement in India ?

A. Chinsura
B. Karaikal
C. Mahe
D. Tranquebar

Ans: D

UPSC NDA-1-2023

Tranquebar was established in 1620 and served as their primary base for over 200 years before being sold to the British in 1845. Serampore was another significant Danish possession.

Arrival of the Portuguese: Vasco da Gama and early settlements

26. When did Portuguese admiral Vasco da Gama come to Calicut ?

A. 1478
B. 1488
C. 1498
D. 1500

Ans: C

APSC CCE Prelims Exam-2018

Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer, became the first European to reach India by sea when he landed at Kappadu near Calicut (present-day Kozhikode) on the southwest coast of India on May 20, 1498.

27. Which of the following is/are true about Vasco Da Gama?

- **(i) Zamorin (Samuthiri) was the ruler of Calicut during Vasco Da Gama's trip to India in 1498.**
- **(ii) In his first trip Vasco Da Gama stayed for approximately one year in India.**
- **(iii) Vasco Da Gama revisited India in 1501.**

A. (i), (ii) and (iii)
B. (i) and (ii)
C. (i) and (iii)
D. Only (i)

Ans: D

CGPSC Prelims Exam-2022

Statement (i) is true: The ruler of Calicut when Vasco Da Gama arrived in 1498 was indeed known as the Zamorin (Samuthiri). Statement (ii) is false: Vasco Da Gama arrived in Calicut on May 20, 1498, and departed in August 1498, staying for approximately three months, not a year. Statement (iii) is false: Vasco Da Gama revisited India for his second voyage in 1502-1503, not 1501. His third voyage was in 1524.

28. Who among the following is regarded as the real founder of the Portuguese colonial empire in India?

A. Vasco da Gama
B. Francisco de Almeida
C. Columbus
D. Afonso de Albuquerque

Ans: D

GPSC Prelims CSP-1-2024

While Vasco da Gama was the first European to reach India by sea (1498), and Francisco de Almeida was the first Viceroy (1505-1509), it was Afonso de Albuquerque (Viceroy 1509-1515) who adopted a more aggressive policy. He captured

strategic locations like Goa in 1510, Malacca in 1511, and Hormuz in 1515, establishing the basis for long-term Portuguese control and dominance in the Indian Ocean trade.

29. Which European nation was first in bringing printing press to India ?

A. England
B. France
C. Portugal
D. Holland

Ans: C

OPSC CS Prelims-2018

The Portuguese established the first printing press in India in Goa in 1556. This was primarily intended for printing religious literature by Christian missionaries.

30. Which one of the followings is connected with 'Blue Water' policy ?

A. De Almeida
B. Albuquerqe
C. Dupleix
D. Robert Clive

Ans: A

UKPSC CS Prelims-2016

Francisco de Almeida was the first Portuguese Viceroy in India (1505-1509). He is associated with the "Blue Water" policy (or 'Estado da India' policy), which aimed at establishing Portuguese naval control over the Indian Ocean trade routes by focusing on strengthening their navy rather than building territorial fortresses and expansions on land.

31. Who first came to India for trading purposes?

A. The French
B. The Dutch
C. The Portuguese
D. The English

Ans: C

WBPSC CS Prelims-2018

The Portuguese were the first European power to establish a direct sea route to India and arrive for trading purposes. Vasco da Gama's arrival in Calicut in 1498 marked the beginning of European presence and trade activities in India via the sea route.

32. When did Vasco-da-Gama come to India?

A. 1498 A.D.
B. 1409 A.D.
C. 1496 A.D.
D. 1492 A.D.

Ans: A

WBPSC CS Prelims-2019

Vasco da Gama, the Portuguese explorer, successfully reached Calicut on the Malabar Coast of India by sea on May 20, 1498. This event marked the first direct sea route from Europe to Asia, bypassing the traditional land routes controlled by Arabs and Italians.

33. W ho were the first Europeans to come to India for trade ?

A. Dutch
B. English
C. French
D. Portuguese

Ans: D

UPPCS Prelims-2011 UPPSC Upper Mains-2007

Their arrival inaugurated a new era of European presence and trade, establishing a foothold in India almost a century before the Dutch and English.

34. At which of the following places in India did the Portuguese build their first fortress ?

A. Anjidiv
B. Cannanore
C. Cochin
D. Goa

Ans: C

UPPSC Upper Mains-2010

Following Vasco da Gama's arrival in Calicut in 1498, the Portuguese established trade relations. Their first factory was set up in Cochin (Kochi) in 1503 under Afonso de Albuquerque. This factory was soon fortified, making it the first Portuguese fortress in India. Cochin became an important base for the Portuguese before Goa was conquered and made their capital in 1510.

35. 81) Who were the first European traders to land in India?

A. French
B. Portuguese
C. Turks
D. Britishers

Ans: B

APPSC Draughtman-2008

Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese explorer, arrived at Calicut (Kozhikode) in 1498, opening a direct sea route between Europe and India.

36. Vasco da Gama, the sailor was a

A. Portuguese
B. American
C. German
D. Italian

Ans: A

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2021

Vasco da Gama was a key figure in the Age of Discovery. Commissioned by the Portuguese king, his voyage in 1497-1498 successfully navigated around the Cape of Good Hope and reached Calicut (Kozhikode) in India, opening up a direct sea route between Europe and Asia.

37. In which year Vasco-da-gama arrived in Kalikat?

A. 1757
B. 1498
C. 1497
D. 1598

Ans: B

WBCS_Main-Paper-3-2023

His arrival marked a significant moment in world history, opening up a direct sea route from Europe to Asia and bypassing the traditional land routes controlled by Arab and Venetian merchants. This event paved the way for European colonization and trade expansion in the East.

38. The first country to establish trade relations with India was

A. Portugal
B. Holland
C. France
D. England

Ans: A

Inspector(Legal Metrology & Consumer Affairs) -2020

The arrival of the Portuguese marked the beginning of European colonial influence and trade in India, which was later followed by the Dutch, English, and French.

39. Where did the Portuguese built their first fort in India in 1503 ?

A. Kannur
B. Cochin
C. Goa
D. Diu

Ans: A

UPPSC ACF RFO gs 1 -2021

The first Portuguese fort in India was built in Kannur in 1503.