

BHAVAN'S CULTURAL OLYMPIAD (BCO) – 2023

Complete Question Paper & Detailed Solutions Guide

Class: 9 to 12

Subject: Cultural

Time Allowed: 1 Hour

Total Marks: 50 Marks

QUICK ANSWER KEY SUMMARY

Q.	Ans	Q.	Ans	Q.	Ans	Q.	Ans	Q.	Ans
1	b	2	a	3	d	4	b	5	a
6	a	7	b	8	a	9	d	10	a
11	c	12	d	13	a	14	c	15	b
16	b	17	d	18	b	19	c	20	d
21	b	22	a	23	b	24	a	25	b
26	b	27	b	28	a	29	c	30	b
31	b	32	a	33	c	34	b	35	b
36	c	37	d	38	d	39	d	40	a
41	d	42	c	43	a	44	b	45	c

SECTION I: QUESTIONS 1 TO 40 (1 MARK EACH)

1. The king performed _____ yajna which meant unquestioned control over the area, in which the royal horse ran uninterrupted.

- a) Rajasuya
- c) Vajapeya

- b) Asvamedha
- d) Bhootna Yajna

Correct Answer: b) Asvamedha

Explanation: The Ashvamedha (horse sacrifice) was a Vedic ritual performed by ancient Indian kings to prove their imperial sovereignty. A horse was let loose to wander for a year, and any ruler who let it pass acknowledged the king's supremacy.

2. In which Upanishads the women got higher education as indicated by the Yajnavalkya?

- a) Brihadaranyaka
- c) Aitaraya

- b) Mundaka
- d) Kaushitaki

Correct Answer: a) Brihadaranyaka

Explanation: The Brihadaranyaka Upanishad mentions famous philosophical debates involving highly educated women scholars like Gargi Vachaknavi and Maitreyi with Sage Yajnavalkya.

3. How many verses are there in the final composition of the Mahabharata?

- a) 1.5 Lakhs
- b) 2 Lakhs
- c) 10,000
- d) 1 lakhs

Correct Answer: d) 1 lakhs

Explanation: The final expanded version of the Mahabharata consists of over 100,000 shlokas (1 lakh verses), making it one of the longest epic poems in human history.

4. Which was the southern most Mahajanapada?

- a) Vatsa
- b) Asmaka
- c) Vaji
- d) Kosala

Correct Answer: b) Asmaka

Explanation: Asmaka (or Assaka) was located on the banks of the Godavari river in modern Maharashtra/Telangana, making it the southernmost of the 16 Mahajanapadas.

5. Who built the capital city of Magadha at Rajgir?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Ashoka
- c) Chandragupta Maurya
- d) Ajatashatru

Correct Answer: a) Bimbisara

Explanation: King Bimbisara of the Haryanka dynasty established Rajagriha (modern Rajgir) as the fortified capital of Magadha.

6. When did Chandragupta Maurya establish the Mauryan dynasty?

- a) 321 BC
- b) 320 BC
- c) 344 BC
- d) 323 BC

Correct Answer: a) 321 BC

Explanation: Chandragupta Maurya overthrow the Nanda dynasty with Chanakya's help and established the Mauryan Empire in c. 321 BC.

7. In domestic architecture of Harappa there were no windows in the walls along the ground level. Identify the possible cause mentioned by the archaeologists from the following options:

- a) It was a custom
- b) To maintain privacy
- c) No concern of ventilation
- d) Part of unplanned process

Correct Answer: b) To maintain privacy

Explanation: Archaeologists noted that Harappan ground-floor walls lacked windows to preserve privacy from passersby on the main streets.

8. In which battle did Alexander defeat Porus?

- a) Battle of Hydaspes
- b) Battle of Sakala
- c) Battle of Panipat
- d) Battle of Talikota

Correct Answer: a) Battle of Hydaspes

Explanation: Alexander the Great fought King Porus on the banks of the Hydaspes River (Jhelum River) in 326 BC.

9. Who was the founder of Jainism?

- a) Mahavira
- b) Sambhavnath
- c) Parshvanath
- d) Rishabhanatha

Correct Answer: d) Rishabhanatha

Explanation: Lord Rishabhanatha (Adinatha) is traditional founder and 1st Tirthankara of Jainism, whereas Lord Mahavira was the 24th and last Tirthankara.

10. Match the following according to the events of Lord Buddha's life:

- A) Birth place i) Sarnath
- B) Place of enlightenment ii) Lumbini
- C) First sermon iii) Kushinagar
- D) Place of death iv) Bodh Gaya

- a) A-ii, B-iv, C-i, D-iii
- b) A-iii, B-ii, C-i, D-iv
- c) B-iv, A-iii, C-i, D-ii
- d) A-i, B-ii, C-iii, D-iv

Correct Answer: a) A-ii, B-iv, C-i, D-iii

Explanation: Birth: Lumbini (ii); Enlightenment: Bodh Gaya (iv); First Sermon: Sarnath (i); Mahaparinirvana (Death): Kushinagar (iii).

11. Assertion (A): The Buddha questioned the authority of the Vedas. They also emphasized individual agency suggesting that men and women could strive to attain liberation.

Reason (R): In Brahmanical position an individual's existence was not thought to be determined by his or her birth in a specific caste or gender but by their deeds.

- a) Both A and R are correct and R explains A
- b) Both A and R are correct but R does not explain A
- c) A is correct but R is wrong
- d) A is wrong but R is correct

Correct Answer: c) A is correct but R is wrong

Explanation: Assertion is true. However, Reason is incorrect because the Brahmanical perspective held that status WAS determined primarily by birth/varna, whereas Buddhism rejected birth-based hierarchy and stressed individual karma.

12. Name the Greek Ambassador who was sent by Seleucus in the court of Chandragupta Maurya.

- a) Deimachus
- b) Antiochus I
- c) Dionysius
- d) Megasthenes

Correct Answer: d) Megasthenes

Explanation: Megasthenes was sent by Seleucus I Nicator as an ambassador to Chandragupta Maurya's court in Pataliputra and wrote the famous account *Indika*.

13. Who started the Saka Era?

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| a) Kanishka | b) Ashoka |
| c) Ashvaghosha | d) Nagarjuna |

Correct Answer: a) Kanishka

Explanation: The Saka Era was founded by Kushana Emperor Kanishka I upon his accession to the throne in 78 AD.

14. Who made Persian the leading language of the court?

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| a) Babur | b) Humayun |
| c) Akbar | d) Aurangzeb |

Correct Answer: c) Akbar

Explanation: Emperor Akbar consciously elevated Persian to the status of the official administrative and court language across the Mughal empire.

15. Who was considered the greatest slave king and the real consolidator of the Turkish conquest in India?

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| a) Razia Sultan | b) Iltutmish |
| c) Qutb-ud-din Aibak | d) Ghiyasuddin Balban |

Correct Answer: b) Iltutmish

Explanation: Shams-ud-din Iltutmish consolidated Delhi Sultanate rule, introduced the IQTA system, minted standard silver Tanka, and obtained official investiture from the Caliph.

16. Identify the ruler using these clues: Fixed commodity costs, set up 3 markets at Delhi, created 'Sarai-Adl', and established market control under 'Diwan-i-Riyasat'.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| a) Jalaluddin Khalji | b) Alauddin Khalji |
| c) Akbar | d) Babur |

Correct Answer: b) Alauddin Khalji

Explanation: Alauddin Khalji implemented famous price control and market regulation reforms in Delhi to maintain a large standing army at minimal expense.

17. Who was known as the 'Globe Trotter'?

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| a) Marco Polo | b) Francois Bernier |
| c) Peter Mundy | d) Ibn Battuta |

Correct Answer: d) Ibn Battuta

Explanation: Moroccan traveler Ibn Battuta covered over 73,000 miles across Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, India, and China, earning the moniker "Globe Trotter of Medieval Times".

18. Which feature of art and architecture is NOT typically associated with the Delhi Sultanate?

i) Islamic influence ii) Long pillared corridors iii) Large courtyard and Garden iv) Indo-Islamic Fusion.

- a) i and ii b) only ii
c) iii and iv d) only iv

Correct Answer: b) only ii

Explanation: Long pillared corridors are characteristic features of traditional South Indian / Dravidian temple architecture, not Sultanate structures.

19. Hindustani language is a combination of _____ and _____ languages.

- a) Hindi and Persian b) Hindi and Devanagari
c) Hindi and Urdu d) Persian and Arabic

Correct Answer: c) Hindi and Urdu

Explanation: Hindustani developed as a lingua franca blending elements of Hindi and Urdu (with Persian/Arabic vocabulary), widely championed by Mahatma Gandhi.

20. Razmnama (Book of War) was the Persian translation of the:

- a) Ramayana
b) Puranas
c) Bhagavad Gita
d) Mahabharata

Correct Answer: d) Mahabharata

Explanation: Commissioned by Mughal Emperor Akbar, the Sanskrit epic Mahabharata was translated into Persian and titled *Razmnama* (Book of War).

21. After being defeated by Sher Shah Suri, Humayun sought refuge in the court of the:

- a) Turkish Ruler of Iraq
b) Safavid ruler of Iran
c) Persian ruler of Oman
d) Afghan ruler of Afghanistan

Correct Answer: b) Safavid ruler of Iran

Explanation: Humayun took refuge in Iran at the court of the Safavid ruler Shah Tahmasp, who later helped him regain his throne in India.

22. Who began the practice of community kitchen or 'Guru-ka-Langar'?

- a) Guru Nanak
b) Kabir
c) Mirabai
d) Sri Chaitanya

Correct Answer: a) Guru Nanak

Explanation: Guru Nanak Dev Ji introduced the institution of Langar (free community kitchen) to break caste barriers and promote equality.

23. Recently, in which state of India has the tourism department initiated promoting a destination where Hindus built a temple and Muslims built a mausoleum in memory of Kabir?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Bihar
- d) Tripura

Correct Answer: b) Uttar Pradesh

Explanation: At Maghar in Sant Kabir Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh, both a Hindu Samadhi and a Muslim Mazaar exist side-by-side commemorating Sant Kabir.

24. Which was the strategy used by Babur against Ibrahim Lodi in the 1st Battle of Panipat?

- a) The Tulughma strategy
- b) Turkish strategy
- c) Extermination strategy
- d) Specification strategy

Correct Answer: a) The Tulughma strategy

Explanation: Babur used the *Tulughma* system (flanking maneuver combined with cannons behind carts/Arba) to defeat the numerically superior forces of Ibrahim Lodi in 1526.

25. Which battle was fought both on land and water in medieval India?

- a) First Battle of Panipat
- b) Battle of Ghaghra
- c) Battle of Khanwa
- d) 2nd Battle of Panipat

Correct Answer: b) Battle of Ghaghra

Explanation: Fought in 1529 between Babur and the Afghan confederacy near the confluence of the Ganges and Ghaghra rivers, it involved simultaneous land and naval fleet maneuvers.

26. Match the texts with their authors:

- A) Akbarnama i) Abdul Hamid Lahori
- B) Humayun Nama ii) Chandrabhan Barahman
- C) Badshah Nama iii) Gulbadan Begum
- D) Char Chaman iv) Abul Fazl

- a) A-ii, B-iii, C-i, D-iv
- b) A-iv, B-iii, C-i, D-ii
- c) A-iii, B-iv, C-ii, D-i
- d) A-iv, B-i, C-ii, D-iii

Correct Answer: b) A-iv, B-iii, C-i, D-ii

Explanation: Akbarnama by Abul Fazl (iv); Humayun Nama by Gulbadan Begum (iii); Badshah Nama by Abdul Hamid Lahori (i); Char Chaman by Chandrabhan Barahman (ii).

27. In which year was the Battle of Haldighati fought?

- a) 15th July 1876
- b) 18th June 1576
- c) 18th July 1570
- d) 15th June 1756

Correct Answer: b) 18th June 1576

Explanation: The historic Battle of Haldighati was fought on 18 June 1576 between Maharana Pratap of Mewar and Akbar's forces led by Man Singh I.

28. Name the ruler who imprisoned his father and killed his brothers for power.

- a) Aurangzeb
- b) Shah Jahan
- c) Sher Shah Suri
- d) Jahangir

Correct Answer: a) Aurangzeb

Explanation: Aurangzeb deposed and imprisoned his father Shah Jahan in Agra Fort and eliminated his brothers Dara Shikoh, Shuja, and Murad in the Mughal war of succession.

29. Assertion (A): The capital cities of the Mughals frequently shifted during the 16th and 17th centuries.

Reason (R): The Mughals were suspicious of enemy attacks on their capital cities.

- a) Both A and R are correct and R explains A
- b) Both A and R are correct but R does not explain A
- c) A is correct but R is wrong
- d) A is wrong but R is correct

Correct Answer: c) A is correct but R is wrong

Explanation: Assertion is true (capitals moved between Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Lahore, and Shahjahanabad). Reason is false; capitals shifted for administrative convenience, military campaigns, and water availability, not fear of attacks.

30. The famous "Treaty of Purandar" was signed in 1665 between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and:

- a) Jaswant Singh
- b) Jai Singh I
- c) Shaista Khan
- d) Aurangzeb

Correct Answer: b) Jai Singh I

Explanation: The Treaty of Purandar was signed on June 11, 1665, between Rajput commander Jai Singh I (representing Aurangzeb) and Shivaji Maharaj.

31. Name the Indian ruler who planted the Tree of Liberty and became a member of the Jacobin Club.

- a) Safdar Jung
- b) Tipu Sultan
- c) Hyder Ali
- d) Raja Jai Singh

Correct Answer: b) Tipu Sultan

Explanation: Inspired by the French Revolution, Tipu Sultan of Mysore planted a 'Tree of Liberty' at Srirangapatna and joined the French Jacobin Club.

32. Who was the founder of Fort William College in Calcutta?

- a) Lord Wellesley
- b) Lord Minto
- c) Lord Dalhousie
- d) Lord Cornwallis

Correct Answer: a) Lord Wellesley

Explanation: Lord Wellesley, Governor-General of India, founded Fort William College in 1800 to train British civil servants in Indian languages and customs.

33. Name a woman from Nagaland who took an active part in the Civil Disobedience Movement.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| a) Kiran Bala Bora | b) Chandraprabha Saikiani |
| c) Rani Gaidinliu | d) Temsutula Imsong |

Correct Answer: c) Rani Gaidinliu

Explanation: Rani Gaidinliu led a spiritual and political revolt against British rule in Manipur and Nagaland at age 13, aligning her Heraka movement with the Civil Disobedience Movement.

34. When was the Cripps Mission sent to India?

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| a) March 1940 | b) March 1942 |
| c) April 1940 | d) April 1942 |

Correct Answer: b) March 1942

Explanation: Sir Stafford Cripps headed the Cripps Mission sent to India in March 1942 by the British government to secure Indian cooperation in World War II.

35. Who was known as the 'Liberator of the Press' in British India?

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| a) Lord Hardinge | b) Sir Charles Metcalfe |
| c) Lord Auckland | d) Lord Ripon |

Correct Answer: b) Sir Charles Metcalfe

Explanation: Sir Charles Metcalfe repealed the restrictive Press Regulations of 1823 through the Press Act of 1835, earning him the title "Liberator of Indian Press".

36. Which 19th-century social reformer gave the slogan "Go back to the Vedas" and "India for the Indians"?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| a) Swami Vivekananda | b) Raja Ram Mohan Roy |
| c) Swami Dayananda Saraswati | d) Keshub Chandra Sen |

Correct Answer: c) Swami Dayananda Saraswati

Explanation: Swami Dayananda Saraswati, founder of Arya Samaj in 1875, gave the call "Go Back to the Vedas" and declared Swaraj / "India for Indians".

37. The Women's Indian Association (WIA) was founded by _____ in 1917 for the upliftment of women.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| a) Sarojini Naidu | b) Madam Cama |
| c) Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain | d) Annie Besant |

Correct Answer: d) Annie Besant

Explanation: The Women's Indian Association was established at Adyar, Madras in 1917 by Annie Besant along with Margaret Cousins, Dorothy Jinarajadasa, and others.

38. Who was the President of the Indian National Congress in 1938?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee | b) Surendranath Banerjee |
| c) Badruddin Tyabji | d) Subhas Chandra Bose |

Correct Answer: d) Subhas Chandra Bose

Explanation: Subhas Chandra Bose presided over the 51st session of the Indian National Congress held at Haripura in 1938.

39. How many Oscars did the movie 'Gandhi' win?

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| a) 4 | b) 10 |
| c) 16 | d) 8 |

Correct Answer: d) 8

Explanation: Richard Attenborough's 1982 biographical film *Gandhi* won 8 Academy Awards (Oscars) out of 11 nominations at the 55th Academy Awards.

40. What is the full form of ICH?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a) Intangible Cultural Heritage | b) Impalpable Cultural Heritage |
| c) Indian Culture and Heritage | d) Indian Culture and History |

Correct Answer: a) Intangible Cultural Heritage

Explanation: ICH stands for Intangible Cultural Heritage, a designation used by UNESCO to safeguard oral traditions, performing arts, and traditional crafts.

SECTION II: ACHIEVER SECTION (QUESTIONS 41 TO 45 - 2 MARKS EACH)

41. Identify the character of Mahabharata with the help of the following information: **2 MARKS**

- He was the eldest among the Kauravas.
- Organised the game of dice and defeated Yudhishtira.
- He wanted to become the next king of Hastinapura.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a) Sri Krishna | b) Arjuna |
| c) Shakuni | d) Duryodhana |

Correct Answer: d) Duryodhana

Explanation: Duryodhana was the eldest son of Dhritarashtra, orchestrated the game of dice (with Shakuni) to usurp Yudhishtira's kingdom, and sought the crown of Hastinapura.

42. Arrange the following Mughal Emperors in correct chronological order: **2 MARKS**

i) Nasiruddin Humayun ii) Aurangzeb iii) Zahiruddin Babur iv) Jahangir

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| a) iv, iii, i and ii | b) iv, i, ii and iii |
| c) iii, i, iv and ii | d) i, ii, iii and iv |

Correct Answer: c) iii, i, iv and ii

Explanation: The chronological sequence of Mughal rulers is: (iii) Zahiruddin Babur (1526–1530) → (i) Nasiruddin Humayun (1530–1556) → (iv) Jahangir (1605–1627) → (ii) Aurangzeb (1658–1707).

43. Identify the Freedom Fighter shown in the image (A prominent female leader in military uniform saluting):

2 MARKS

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| a) Laxmi Sahgal | b) Madam Cama |
| c) Bina Das | d) Pritilata Waddedar |

Correct Answer: a) Laxmi Sahgal

Explanation: Captain Lakshmi Sahgal (Lakshmi Swaminathan) was the commander of the all-women 'Rani of Jhansi Regiment' of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army (INA).

44. Which architectural form/style was used in building the Konark Sun Temple? 2 MARKS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| a) Dravida style | b) Nagara style |
| c) Classical style | d) Neo classical style |

Correct Answer: b) Nagara style

Explanation: The 13th-century Konark Sun Temple in Odisha is built in the Kalinga sub-style of northern Nagara temple architecture.

45. In the fourth session of the Indian National Congress held in 1888 at Allahabad, who among the following national leaders represented Hissar? 2 MARKS

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| a) Lala Sultan Singh | b) Baldeo Singh |
| c) Lala Lajpat Rai | d) Lala Hardayal |

Correct Answer: c) Lala Lajpat Rai

Explanation: Lala Lajpat Rai attended the 1888 Allahabad session of the INC as a delegate representing Hissar (Haryana), where he actively supported the nationalist cause.