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Q10

Which one of the following books of ancient India has the love story of the son of the founder of Sunga dynasty? (a) Swapnavasavadatta (b) Malavikagnimitra (c) Meghadoota (d) Ratnavali Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Art and Culture

Indian art, architecture, culture - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Swapnavasavadatta. Bhasa's play on Udayana and Vasavadatta is not the Sunga-prince romance. This letter is not the key.

(b) Official key

Malavikagnimitra. Kalidasa's play is the love story of Agnimitra, son of Pushyamitra, founder of the Sunga dynasty, and Malavika. That stored letter is the official key.

(c)

Meghadoota. Kalidasa's lyric of a yaksha and a cloud is not a Sunga court romance. This letter is not the key.

(d)

Ratnavali. Harshavardhana's play on Udayana and Ratnavali is later and unrelated to the Sunga founder's son. This letter is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (b) Malavikagnimitra. Agnimitra is Pushyamitra Sunga's son; Kalidasa stages his love for Malavika. Swapnavasavadatta, Meghadoota and Ratnavali are other classics with different plots. Honour the stored letter (b).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Pushyamitra Sunga

Founder of the Sunga dynasty after the Mauryas

Agnimitra

Sunga prince/king; hero of Malavikagnimitra

Kalidasa corpus

Abhijnanashakuntalam, Vikramorvashiyam, Malavikagnimitra

Bhasa

Attributed author of Swapnavasavadatta

Harsha

Author of Ratnavali, Priyadarshika, Nagananda

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