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Q25

Which of the following phrases defines the nature of the 'Hundi' generally referred to in the sources of the post-Harsha period?

(a) An advisory issued by the king to his subordinates (b) A diary to be maintained for daily accounts (c) A bill of exchange (d) An order from the feudal lord to his subordinates Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2020 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)
Ancient, medieval and modern Indian history - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Royal advisory. Not what a **hundi** is.

(b)

A diary. Unrelated.

(c) Official key

A bill of exchange. The post-Harsha **hundi** is a credit instrument - an order to pay.

(d)

A daily sales account. Book-keeping, not the **hundi**.

Summary

Official key is (c). In post-Harsha sources a **hundi** is a bill of exchange / indigenous credit note used by merchants, not an edict, a diary or a sales ledger.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Hundi

Darshani and muddati types; merchant networks.

Hundial

The same instrument in later bazaar English.