

Answer key to qp code 23633

Semester III CBSGS

History Paper III – History of Ancient India (From Earliest Times to 1000 A.D.)

The answer key given below is only synoptic

1. A. Describe the importance of archaeological sources for the study of Ancient Indian history.

Answer: Meaning of sources – types of sources – what are archaeological sources – types of archaeological sources – immovable monuments, weapons, implements and tools, statues and sculptures, weights and measures, coins and inscriptions – how do they help in the understanding of Ancient Indian history – give examples of all the archaeological sources

B. Discuss the Buddhist and Jain literature as an important source of Ancient Indian history.

Answer: Meaning of sources – types of literary sources – sacred sources – Buddhist and Jain sources – Milindapanho – Tripitakas – literature from Ceylon – Chinese scholars who wrote on Buddhism; Jain angas – Purvas – Bhadrabahu charitra

C. Explain the various accounts of foreign travellers as a source of Ancient Indian history.

Answer: Meaning of sources – foreigners who visited / wrote about India – various types of Greek writings, Chinese scholars, Arab travellers, Persian writings – the nature of writings – the observations of travellers – the limitations of their writings – unfamiliar with Indian context – need to be used carefully – reflect political, social, religious and cultural history of India – help to corroborate Indian sources

2. A. Describe the life of Harappan people with reference to dress, ornaments and food habits.

Answer: Life of Harappan people understood through statues and sculptures, seals, toys and other material remains – Bearded Man – Dancing girl – male torsos – textiles, designs, cotton and wool used, jewellery – necklaces, earrings, anklets, bangles, nose rings, armlets, girdles, bead making, metals used, semi precious stones, grains, dairy products, meat and poultry and fish

B. Explain the religious life of the Harappans as depicted in the seals.

Answer: Introduction to religious life of the Harappans – abundant seals of clay found – help in understanding history of the period - worship of nature – no written sources – study only with the help of seals and other remains – depiction of humped bulls, Mother Goddess, unique headgear, proto type Shiva – as Pashupati – shown with animals, variety of trees, linga worship

C. Write a detailed note on Great Bath of Mohenjodaro and the Dockyard of Lothal

Answer: Location of Mohenjodaro – its discovery – public buildings – Great Bath – its structure – features – construction style – measurements – materials used – purpose for which it may have been used. Lothal – its location – structure and style – possible use for trade – ship building activity

3. A. Trace the evolution of janapadas in the early Vedic period.

Answer: Aryan settlements – change from nomadic way of life – food gatherer to settled way of life – beginning of agriculture – concept of kula – use of technology – rise and growth of power of head of clan – emergence of concept of ruler

B. Give an account of various occupations and industries of the Aryans

Answer: Early occupations based on division of labour – settled way of life gave rise to new occupations – agricultural and non – agricultural, use of metals especially iron – development of technology – used of clay, wood, pottery – new occupations and industries, new classes – guilds or shrenis

C. Describe the religious beliefs and practices during the Vedic Age.

Answer: Religion of Vedic people evolved from early to later periods of Vedic age – belief in worship of nature – celestial, atmospheric, terrestrial gods – polytheism to monotheism – sacrifices – development of ceremonies through literary works – emergence of trimurti

4. A. Explain the nature and functioning of monarchies and republics.

Answer: Rise of Mahajanapadas – Mahajanapadas on the foothills of Himalayas and on the plains of India – examples of each – type of governance – and power of ruler – monarchy and republic – interchangeable – gana sangha and gana parishad – advisory councils – sabha and samiti – power was determined by the power of the ruler

B. Examine the factors that led to the emergence of Jainism and Buddhism.

Answer: Dominance of Brahmins – emphasis on rituals, sacrifices and other religious practices- emphasis on Sanskrit – caste system, treatment of lower castes, unequal society, growth of trade, commerce, mercantile classes and traders, new urban centres, new religious ideas were encouraged

C. State the causes and effects of the Battle of Jhelum

Answer: Arrival of Alexander and the Greek army – support from King Ambhi – internal conflict among the rulers of North west – Ambhi's support to Alexander against Porus – battle of Jhelum – Alexander's strategy and victory – withdrawal from India – effects on political, social, cultural life of the Indians

5. Short notes

a) Dramas and poetry as source of History

Dramas and dramatists- poetry and poets - give examples – how these depict historical events – court scenes – battles – royal patronage – social life and other aspects

b) Town planning of Indus valley civilization

Main features – citadel and lower city - chess board pattern – dwelling houses, streets, byelanes, walls of houses, courtyards, wells, drainage system, water management, public buildings

c) Position of Vedic women

Evolution of Vedic society – patriarchal society - position of women in religious, administrative and domestic matters – changes that occurred in later vedic times – revered in literature and religious texts, but occupied subordinate position – limitations in education – marriage – property

d) Persian invasion of India

Rise and growth of Persian rulers – Cyrus, Darius I, Xerxes, extent up to Bactria / Gandhara, inscriptions found in several places, mention of Satrapies, reference by the Greeks