

Answer key to qp code 23635

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. Bring out the value of monuments and coins as sources of Ancient Indian history.

Answer: Meaning of sources – types of sources – what are archaeological sources – types of archaeological sources, coins – extent of kingdoms, dynasties and genealogies, metallurgical developments - how do they help in the understanding of Ancient Indian history. Importance of material remains for understanding history – give information on socio- cultural and religious life, art and architecture, development and progress in science and technology – examples of monuments – temples, palaces, stupas, monasteries, administrative buildings, educational buildings, forts – found in various sites in India and southeast Asia

B. Describe the various Brahmannical and Jain literary sources for the study of Ancient Indian history.

Answer: Meaning of sources – types of literary sources – sacred sources – Brahmannical literature – types – Vedas, Upvedas, Brahmanas, Vedangas, Upanishads, Smritis and Epics – how it reflects political, social and cultural life. Jain literary sources – oral tradition for long – developed from the times of the general Council held in Pataliputra – divided into Purvas which later were re-organized into Angas and further upangas – Bhadrabahu charita – refer to period of Chandragupta Maurya

C. Discuss the various types of Greek sources.

Answer: Meaning of sources – foreigners who visited / wrote about India – various types of Greek writings – Skylax, Herodotus, Megasthenese, Pliny, Ptolemy – the nature of writings – political, cultural, description of geography and nature – 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. Explain the socio-economic life of the Harappan people.

Answer: Harappan civilization – structure of society – four classes, diet, dress, use of cosmetics, household articles used can be used to understand social conditions - well developed trade and commerce – internal and external, links with different parts of India and outside – Afghanistan, Persia, Mesopotamia while internal trade with south, central, north and west parts of India – imported several objects including gold, copper and silver – exported grain – dockyard at Lothal indicates active trade on waterways - maritime activity and ship building activity – objects of Harappan culture found in Sumeria and Mesopotamia – suggests trade links between the two regions

B. Review the religious beliefs and practices of the Indus people.

Answer: Religious life of the Harappans understood through seals, terracotta and stone figurines – depiction of Mother Goddess on seals – represented fertility – unique headgear – several seals with this image – seals also show images similar to shiva – yogic posture – Pashupati – with animals surrounding – worship of linga - various types of trees and animals – appear mythical – hence assumption that they worshipped nature

C. Explain the characteristics of Indus Valley houses.

Answer: Towns of Harappan period show lower city in a chess board pattern – houses on both sides of main street – entrances along the bye-lanes – single or double storeyed houses with internal drainage system and a well – constructed with bricks – measurement of bricks – used header and stretcher pattern – thick walls – niches in the walls – central courtyard in houses – paved – drains led to main sewage along the streets

3. A. Describe the growth and expansion of Aryan civilization.

Answer: Rig Vedic references to rivers of Indo – Gangetic region – Indus and her tributaries – stretching from Swat and Kabul to Ganga, Saraswati and Yamuna – shift from west towards the east over a period of time – territory called Aryavarta – development of janapadas – names mentioned in literature – defeat of non-Aryan people – found in Brahmanas – extensive migration

B. Examine the position of women during the Vedic age.

Answer: Patriarchal nature of Vedic society – position of women in early and later Vedic period – of respect – no child marriages – choice of groom – education of women – participation in discourses – no reference to sati, dowry system – women participated in ceremonies – limited legal rights – under protection of men of the family – position of widows – deterioration after Manusmriti laid down restrictions

C. Describe the religious philosophy of Aryans.

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 – worship in the early and later Vedic periods – prayers became more elaborate – sacrifices gained importance – rituals complicated – offerings included many objects – elaborate sacrifices – yagnas – role of brahmins – example of rajasuya sacrifice – animal sacrifice, ashwamedha – sacrifices and ceremonies by individuals and rulers and nobility

4. A. Examine the administrative features of the Mahajanapadas.

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. Write a detailed note on the teachings and spread of Jainism.

Answer: Jainism before Vardhamana Mahavira – 23 tirthanakaras – early life of Vardhamana Mahavira – renunciation of world – 24th Tirthankara – teachings – non – belief in God, rejected the Vedas, emphasis on ahimsa – five vows and triratnas – theory of karma – spread of Jainism – Bimbisara, Ajatasatru, Chandragupta Maurya, spread to South India – Ujjain, Malwa, Gujarat, Rajasthan – emergence of two sects – Svetambara and Digambara – Jain centres in India

C. Examine the impact of the Persian invasion of India.

Answer: 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 – political impact – rise of Kushanas and Sakas – development of trade – cultural contacts grew – use of kharoshti script, coins of similar technique, impact on art especially pillars

5. Short notes

a) Epics as a source of Ancient Indian history

Two epics – Ramayana and Mahabharata – reflect political and social conditions of the times, position of king – position of women – wars and treaties – expansion of territory – subjugation of non-Aryans

b) Civic amenities of Indus civilization

Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Kalibangan most well-known – similar features of town planning – civic amenities include roads / streets, grid pattern of city, perpendicular streets, intersections of bye-lanes at right angles, street lights, drainage system, water management and wells

c) Economic life of the Aryans

Aryans were pastoral – use of plough and other implements helped in the development of agriculture – crops grown barley, wheat, sesame, oil seeds, cotton, rice – references found in Vedic texts – use of oxen Industry – variety – use of metals – iron, copper, bronze – carpentry – making of chariots, boats, carts – tanning industry – bow strings, reins and thongs, weaving, fishing, jewellery making, blacksmith, pottery, basket making, ship building and others

d) Gautama Buddha

Early life of Gautama Siddharth – luxury of royal birth – experience of pain and sorrow – life in search of truth – Enlightenment – Dharmachakrapravartana – teachings – Four Noble Truths a) World is full of sorrow dukkha b) desire is the cause of sorrow trishna c) to end sorrow we must end desire nirodha d) there is a path to end desire marga – Eight Fold Path also known as Madhyam pratipat – right speech, action, means of livelihood, efforts, mindedness, meditation, views and resolution – concept of Karma and rebirth – Nirvana – Ahimsa – rejection of caste system