

<i>Alhijman Hazarika</i> NAME	 Mobile No.	 Email ID
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Start Time:

End Time:

ANSWER SHEET SECTIONAL TEST- VII (ANCIENT INDIA)

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Time Allowed: 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 130

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There are FOUR questions in this paper.

Candidate has to attempt THREE questions in all.

Question No. 1 is compulsory and out of the remaining, TWO are to be attempted.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

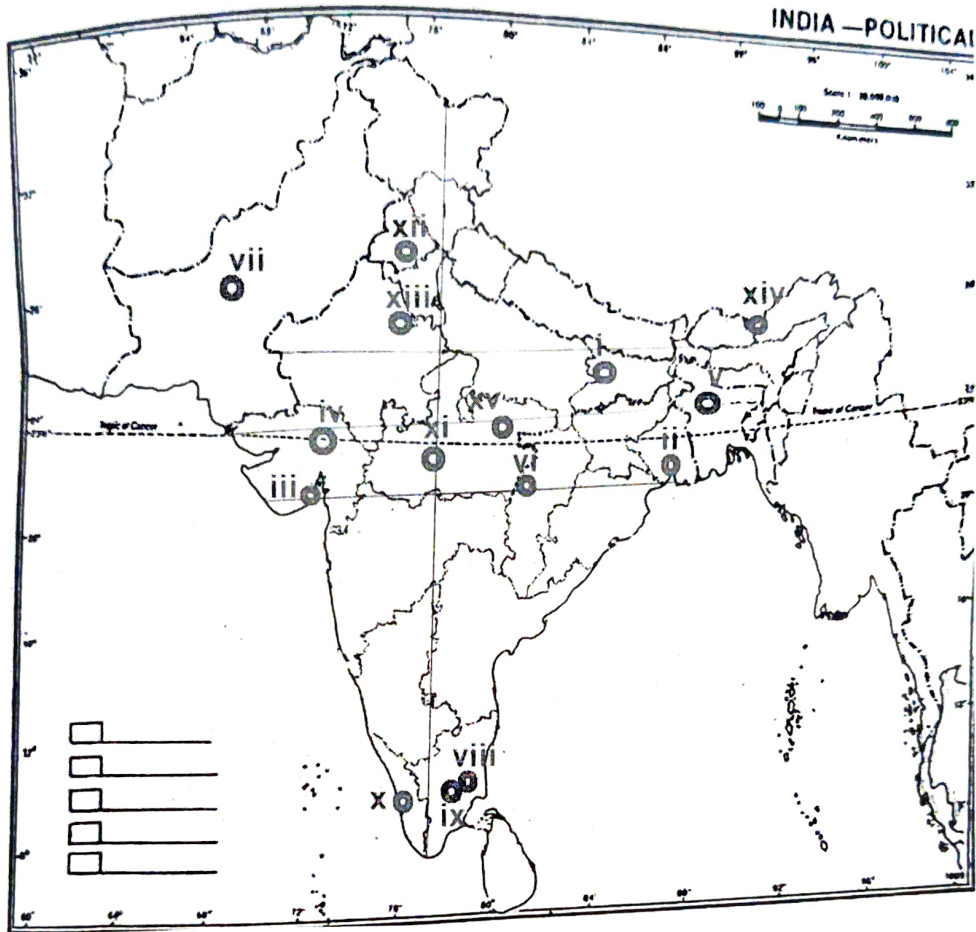
Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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Comments after evaluation

Q.1 Identify the following places marked on the map supplied to you and write a short note of about 30 words on each of them in your Question-cum-Answer Booklet. Locational hints for each of the places marked on the map are given below seriatim. [15x2.5= 30 Marks]



(i) Neolithic and Chalcolithic site

Chirand
 - evidence of rice, wheat, barley cultivation
 - domestication of animals

(ii) Ancient port and NBPW site

Tamralipta, West Bengal

- Ancient port under the dynasty of Anga
- occupied by Simbisara of Haryankas
- Ashoka come to bid adieu to Mahendra and Sanghamitra on journey to Sri Lanka
- trade with Eastern and Western world

(iii) Early and Mature Harappan site

Padari, Gujarat

- evidence of pre, early and Harappan phase found
- milllets, Harappan pottery found

(iv) Mesolithic site

Langnaz, Gujarat

- evidence of small huts made of grass, wood etc. found

- microliths found
- evidence of domestication of animals

(v) Ancient capital city

Mahasthangarh, Bangladesh

- inscription of Chandragupta Maurya found
- informs about famine relief measures taken during last years of reign of Chandragupta Maurya

(vi) Temple Complex dedicated to Shiva

Amarkantak

- located on the Maikal range
- origin place of many rivers including Narmada, Son etc
- many scattered temples found

(vii) Neolithic and Chalcolithic site

Mehrgarh, Pk

- evidence of Neolithic, Pre Harappan, Harappan, Chalcolithic phase
- considered earliest village which came up around 5000 BC
- evidence of dentistry

(viii) UNESCO World Heritage site

~~Brihadiswara temple~~ Tanjore, Tamil Nadu

- capital of the imperial Cholas
- Brihadiswara temple built by Rajaraja Chola → UNESCO World Heritage site
- one of the largest temple complexes

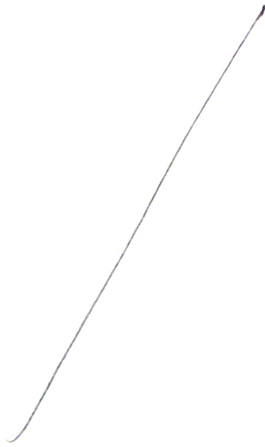
(ix) Jain site

Sittanavasal, Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu

- cave temples
- many paintings have been found



(x) Place of oldest Mosque

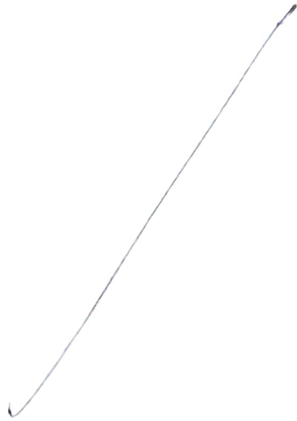


(xi) Paleolithic and Mesolithic site

Adomgarh, Madhya Pradesh

- stone tools found
- quartz tools of flake and blade technology found
- nearby sites of Bhimbetka and Hathnora located

(xii) Site of Coin and Seal Moulds



(xiii) Painted Grey Ware site

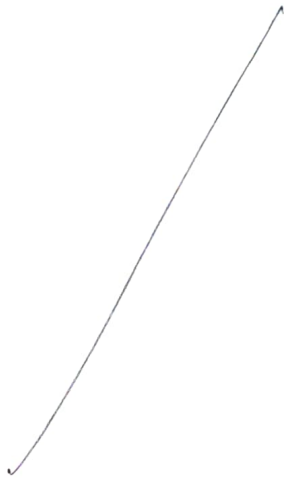
- Jodhpur-Ganeshwara, Rajasthan
- Chalcolithic and PGW site
 - ochre coloured pottery also found
 - small settlement
 - houses made of sun dried and burnt bricks

(xiv) Famous Buddhist Monastery

Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh

- largest Buddhist monastery in India
- belongs to Vajrayana tradition and Dalai Lama is the spiritual guru
- disputed territory between India and China

(xv) Palaeolithic site



Q.3 (a) Analyse Vedic sacrifice as a ritual and a form of social exchange in ancient India. [15 Marks]

Ans:- Vedic sacrifices are associated with the Vedic age and subsequent time in India which emerged around 1500 BC in the North-Western parts of the sub-continent

As a ritual

a) Early Vedic Age (around 1500-1000BC)

→ Rituals were simple

→ There were sixteen different kinds of priests including the Brahmins

→ Many of them could be performed by the householders themselves

→ The main aim was materialistic such as birth of a child, winning a battle etc.

b) Later Vedic Age (around 1000BC-500BC)

→ The rituals became violent, complex, expensive in nature

- The Brahmanas emerged as the main priests
- Spiritualistic goals became predominant

As form of social exchange

Vedic sacrifices ensured that resources kept on moving within the society by:-

- The person who offered sacrifice like the kings or householders

- bought various materials like flowers, fruits etc. from merchants and traders ensuring they got resources in return

- gifts were given to Brahmanas, priests which ensured resources to the non-producing class

- gifts were given to relatives, families etc. helping in movement of resources and ensuring social relations

- This ensured that everyone in society got the minimum resources to survive

and an interlinked society was created.

Thus, it is rightly said that Vedic sacrifices were more for social exchange rather than for rituals.

Q.3 (b) "On circumstantial evidence Indra stands accused." Discuss the given statement in the context of the decline of Harappan Civilisation. [15 Marks]

Ans:- The scholars like V Gordon Childe,
Mortimer Wheeler
John Marshall etc. who put up the
theory of Aryan invasion of Harappan decline
accuse Indra for the same.

Evidences in support

i) → In Vedic literature, Indra has been
referred to as 'Purandari' and 'Vritrahana'

a) 'Purandari' refers to destroyer of forts
- so, they opine that there were the
forts of the Harappan people which
was destroyed by Indra

b) 'Vritrahana' means slayer of demon 'Vritra
- it is mentioned that Vritra used
to block and change the course of rivers
- it might refer to the dams used
for flood irrigation by the Harappans

ii) Further, there is a reference to a place called 'Harinyupiya' in Rig Veda where the Aryans fought with the Dasyus

- the place has been identified as 'Harappa'

iii) Archaeological evidence

- 36 body remains are found at Mohenjodaro which are scattered here and there indicating possibility of a war

There are various drawbacks to

this theory:-

i) Archaeological evidence suggests that in the North-Western region of the subcontinent, the Harappan civilization had already declined by 2750 BC and the Aryans didn't enter before 1500 BC.

ii) The skeletons found in Mohenjodaro belong to different stratigraphic levels as found by W.F. Flinders.

(ii) The people had recovered from injuries before their death. So, it doesn't point to a war.

Thus, the theory of Aryan invasion is not accepted largely. On the contrary, after evidences found by AN Ghosh, MR Mughal, Allchins etc., the theory of gradual decline is the most acceptable

Q.3 (c) Give a brief account of the social organisation, settlement pattern, political system and religious beliefs & practices of Megalithic period. [20 Marks]

Ans: - The Megalithic period roughly corresponds to the period of 1100-600 BC mostly in southern India which gave way to the Iron age.

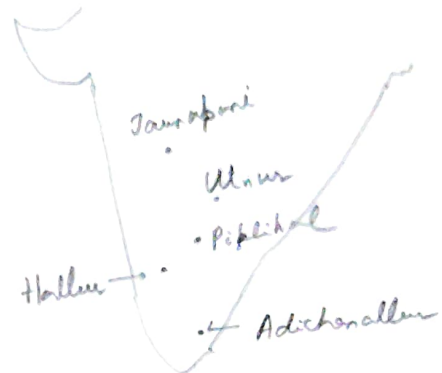


Fig: - Important megalithic sites

Settlement pattern

- i) They use to live in small settlements
- ii) They were semi-nomadic and use to live in one-place for 50-200yr as evident from the amount of debris
- iii) Used to live in houses made of wood, bamboo, grass etc.
- iv) Jambupuri, Utunur, Pikkilhal, Hallur, Adichanallur etc. are important sites.

Social organisation

- i) People used to live in small groups
- ii) Interaction between different groups was largely absent
- iii) Religious practices had started emerging

Political system

- i) State formation was not witnessed during this period.
- ii) No definite political form emerged

Religious beliefs

- i) Megalithic age is characterised by burial practices largely

- ii) Graves were dug, people buried

- iii) Covered by large boulders and also marked by boulders

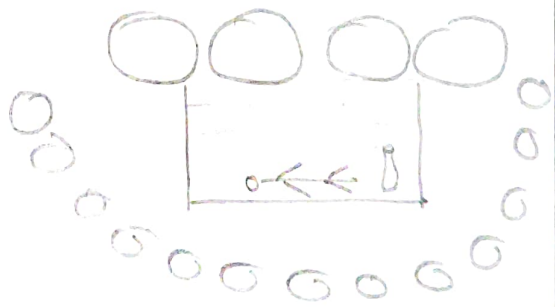


Fig:- Megalithic burials

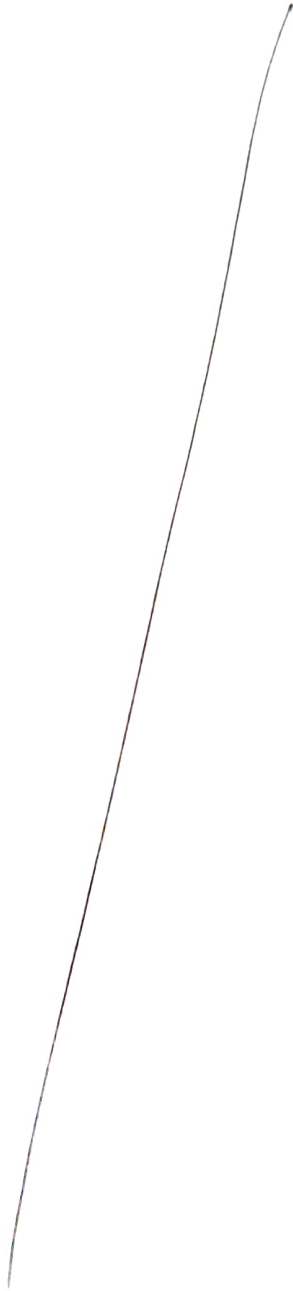
- iv) Characteristic belief in after life as

grave goods like pottery, ornaments etc. have been found in graves.

Other practices

- i) Characterised iron age in South India as many iron tools have found in the burials
- ii) Black and red ware pottery prevalent
- iii) Some kind of trade with the northern Chalcolithic and Painted Grey Ware sites as iron, copper etc. were found mostly in North India
- iv) Many megalithic sites like Nagajoni kande later became important places in the Post Vedic period.

Megalithic sites and discoveries provide us great insight into the life of that age.



Q.4 (a) What are the Geographical factors which influences early Indian History? Discuss. [15 Marks]

Ans:- Early Indian history has largely been shaped by geography as early man was dependent completely on nature for survival.

The various geographical factors are:-

i) Rivers

→ Rivers have always been the cradles of civilisations across the globe.

→ Rivers provided drinking water, fertile land, routes for navigation to early man

ex:- The Harappan civilisation was largely confined to the Saraswati, Indus and their tributaries' valleys

ii) Hills and mountains

→ The Himalayas have protected India from - the cold Siberian waves

- invaders from north

- provided valuables - ex:- soma during Vedic age

→ The Vindhyas have ensured that South India has been more safe from invaders than North India

ii) Availability of resources

→ ensured that in some places like ~~Magadha~~ in Lothal etc. various industries like shell making, bead making flourished

→ early man settled near foothills as stone which was essential for their survival was easily available.

iv) Fertile plains

→ Agriculture came up around 6000-5000 BC which marked the neolithic age

→ large settlements came up

v) Natural shelters

→ early man didn't know to build houses, so they lived in natural caves

ex:- Bhimbetka, Adangarh in MP etc.

vi) Coastal areas

→ In coastal areas, resources from sea were easily available

→ Trade and commerce gradually evolved
ex:- many Harappan sites like Suktagendor, Lothal, Allohdino etc. were located.

Thus, geography had a major impact on early Indian history.

Q.4 (b) Analyse the significance of various foreign accounts as a source of ancient Indian history. [15 Marks]

Ans:- Over the ages, various foreign travellers, ambassadors have visited this country which provided valuable info of their age and times.

The significance is as follows:-

i) Social life

→ Megasthenes in Indica talks about various castes in India

→ Information that Vardekas used to live outside city is provided by Fa Hien

ii) Economic life

→ Pripius of the erythraean sea provides information about various ports like Bharuch etc.

→ We know that Romans were addicted to Indian textiles, spices etc. from Pliny's books.

iii) Political life

→ Hsien Tsang gives information about extent of Harsha's kingdom

→ Megasthenes talks about Seleucus handing over various territories like Herat etc. to Chandragupta Maurya

ii) Religious life

→ Alberuni in Kitab-ul-Hind criticises the Brahmanas for keeping information only to themselves

→ Fa Hien, I Ching etc. give accounts of Buddhist literature

iii) Cultural life

At the same time, it should be noted that foreign accounts suffer from various issues:

i) Lack of understanding of Indian practices
- ex: - Megasthenes stating that slavery was absent

ii) Bias towards patrons
ex: - Hsien Tsang glorified Hauha in Si-Yu-Ki

iii) Many books have been only lost and preserved from writings of others. So, authenticity

is compromised.

ex: - Megasthenes Indica only known from writers like Strabo, Pliny, Arrian, Aelion etc.

Thus, foreign accounts are of great significance to understand ancient Indian history but at the same time they should be verified with other literary and arch-
aeological evidences.

Q.4 (c) Give a comparative analysis of the Indus Valley Civilisation and Rig Vedic Culture. [20 Marks]

Ans:- Scholars like SR Rao, R G Bhandarkar etc. are of the opinion that the people of Rig Vedic culture or the Anyans were the same as people of Indus Valley civilisation.

The various similarities between them are:-

- i) Geography:- Both occupied the same geographical region i.e. North-West parts of the subcontinent
- ii) Both used pottery
- ii) Both used wheel for making pottery
- iii) Material culture - Both used metals like copper, bronze, tin etc.

None used iron.

The differences are:-

- i) Indus valley civilisation (IVC) - urban people, settled in cities

Rig Vedic Culture (RVC) - ~~found~~^{live} in villages

ii) IVC - ~~no~~ subsistence based on agricultural industries and trade

RVC - pastoral economy largely; agriculture in lower level as found by R N Nand

iii) IVC - peace loving people; only one sword has been found at Bhagwanpura which seems to be of Vedic age

RVC - warrior people
ex:- Battle of Ten kings at the banks of Parushni

iv) IVC - bull was worshipped; bronze bull figures from Kalibangan, Lothal etc.

RVC - cow was worshipped

v) IVC - mother Goddess main deity

RVC - Indra, Varuna, Agni chief deities; female Goddess like Usha, Aditi less in no

- vi) IVC - evidences of centralised administration from twin cities of Harappa and Mohenjodaro
RVC - tribal state with not well developed monarchy
- vii) IVC - script was known; found extensively in seals and potteries
RVC - script not known; education imparted orally
- viii) IVC - extensive trade networks with internal trade, trade with Mesopotamian civilisation, Dilmun, Magan etc.
RVC - largely internal trade

The Indus valley civilisation has far more differences rather than similarities with Rig Vedic culture. The Angans settled in this region after the indigenous Harappan people had largely migrated towards western and southern parts of the subcontinent.