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Start Time: 10:00 am End Time: 11:30 am

ANSWER SHEET

SECTIONAL TEST- I

(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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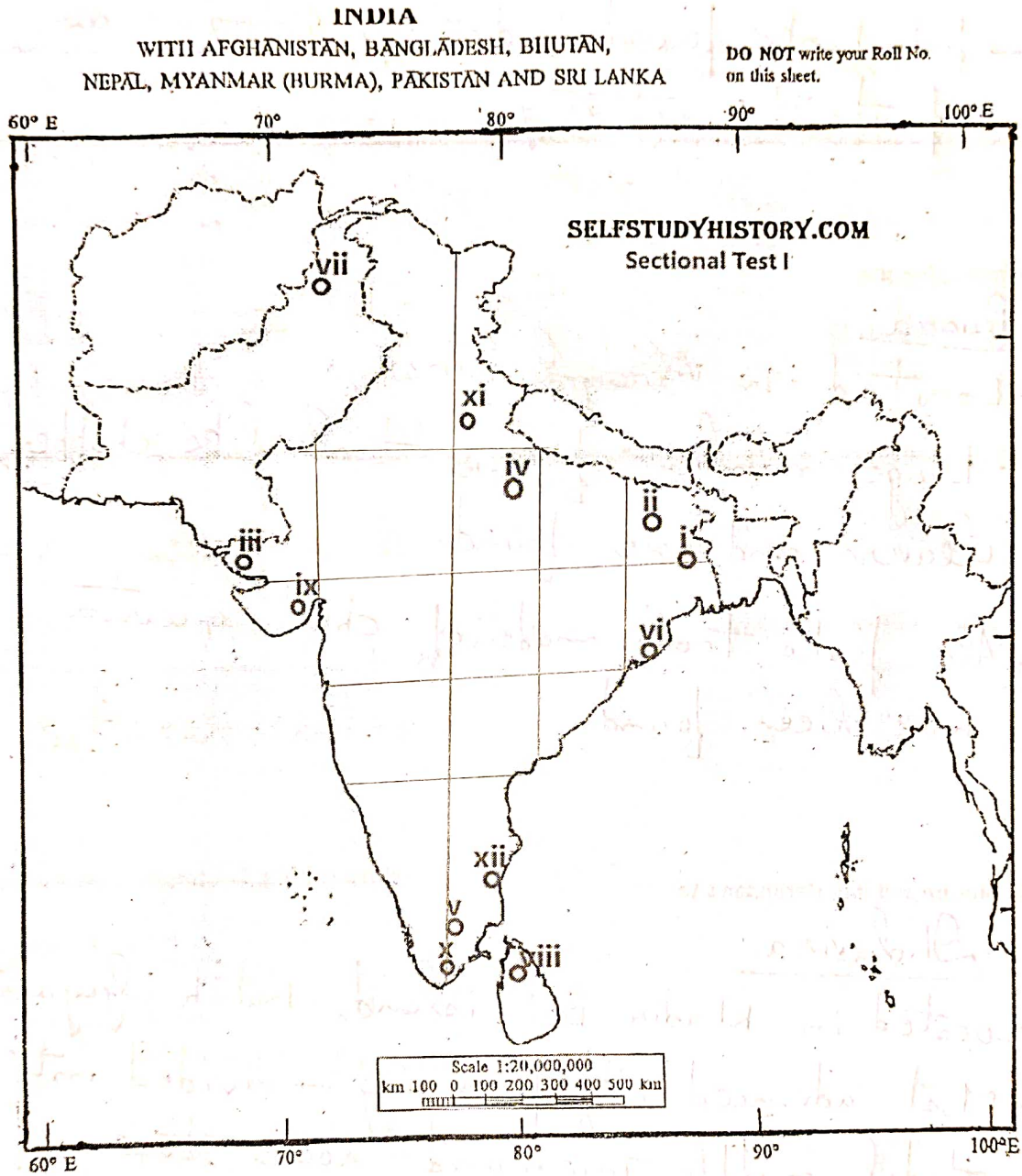
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Comments after evaluation

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. [12x2.5= 30 Marks]



(i) Mesolithic site

Pandu Rajar Shikhi

- Located in W. Bengal, it has habitation from mesolithic to neolithic levels

- Microoliths , bone tools have been found
- fish hooks found indicating fishing as an important activity.

(ii) Paleolithic site

Paisra

- Located in ~~Uttar Pradesh~~ Bihar.
- Large number of core tools like chopper, cleavers and axes found.
- Also flake tools made of chert, quartz have been found.

(iii) Mature and late Harappan site

Dholavira

- Located in Khadir Bet island, Kutch, Gujarat.
- Most advanced city planning — divided into citadel, middle town and lower town
- Giant reservoir, polished pillar base found.
- A UNESCO world heritage site.

(iv) Ancient temple site

Mathura

- Capital of Shauvaseni mahajanapada as well as Kushan empire.
- Nucleus of Mathura school of art.
- A Kushan era shrine found with a statue of Kanishka.
- Part of Uttarapatha \Rightarrow Major Trade Centre.

(v) Petroglyph Site

Sittanavasal Jain caves

- Built under the patronage of Pandyas and Pallavas in 7th/8th century CE.
- Contain beautiful paintings of nymphs, ponds, flowers, animals etc.
- Paintings were done on walls, ceilings as well as on pillars

(vi) Ancient World Heritage site

Konark Sun Temple

- Built by Narsimhadeva I in the 13th Century. \Rightarrow known as Black Pagoda

- The temple is built in the shape of a massive chariot (rath) with wheels.

- Recent efforts are being taken to restore the structure by removing sand from within the Jagati.

(vii) Ancient capital city

Purushapur (Peshawar)

- Located in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

- Capital of Kushan empire

- Connected Silk route to Uttarapatha.

- Major trading centre as well as a cultural centre.

(viii) Ancient cultural and political centre

Anuradhapura

- Important political and learning centre in ancient Sri Lanka.

- frequently mentioned in Sri Lankan Buddhist texts.

(ix) Ancient capital city and Jain site

Vallabhi

- Located in Gujarat, ancient learning site.
- Capital of Maitraka kingdom after the decline of Guptas.
- Jain agamas were compiled at this place in 5th/6th century CE by Shvetambaras.

(x) Megalithic site

Adichanallur

- Located in southern Tamil Nadu.
- Large number of different types of rock burials found.

(xi) Painted Grey Ware site

Hastinapur

- Located in UP, has habitational levels spreading in PGW and NBPW.
- Capital of ancient Kurus

- Prominently featured in Mahabharat.
- Laid on the Uttarapatha - a major trading centre.

(xii) Ancient port site

Arikamedu

- Located in Puducherry.
- Important port city during Sangam age (300 BCE - 300 CE)
- Large number of Roman gold coins, wine amphorae found
- Interesting pottery finds include Rouletted ware and Terra Sigillata
- Sangam text mentioned foreigners living in this city.

Q.2 (a) Give an account of the democratic elements in the political system of the early Vedic period. [15 Marks]

The Rig Vedic Era (1500 - 1000 BCE) has been hailed as an egalitarian society by many historians due to less social inequality, lack of social stratification and inherent democratic principles in its polity.

Democratic elements in Early Vedic age

- ① Limited powers of Rajan (tribal chieftain)
 - a) Main responsibilities were protection of tribe and lead them to victory in wars.
 - b) Absence of hereditary kingship.
 - c) Lack of concept of divine kinship - which exalted its position in later Vedic ages.

② Powerful tribal assemblies

- a) Called Sabha, Samiti, Vidatha.
- b) Performed important functions such as -
 - Distribution of resources and war booty.
 - Electing Rajan to lead the tribe.
 - performing socio-religious ceremonies.

c) Very powerful assemblies - significant influence over tribe.

d) In many hymns, Rajan can be seen as begging for approval from Sabha.

3. Kinship based administration

a) Unit of administration was Jana, Vish, Gana and Kula.

b) Thus, the tribe and people held primacy over land and property.

4. Voluntary taxation

a) voluntary contribution from clansmen to Rajan was called 'Bali'.

b) No proper mechanism to levy periodic bali.

c) Lack of coercion and subjugation of common people.

5. Lack of proper social stratification

a) 4-fold varna classification had not emerged back then.

li) Sufficient social mobility - people could follow any occupation based on interest.

6. Less subjugation of women

a) Women allowed to participate in Sabha, Tajnas along with husbands.

li) Women participated in chariot races as well.

Although rig vedic age was comparatively egalitarian to later phases, significant social inequality persisted in the form of slavery (Dasas) and restrictions on certain activities for women.

Q.2 (b) To what extent archaeological materials are useful in understanding the progress of Neolithic man in India? [15 Marks]

Archaeology plays a pivotal role in reconstruction of material culture during the Neolithic age because of dearth of other sources.

Role of archaeology in Neolithic age

① Identification of settlement patterns

Most of the neolithic sites are located near water sources and also close to raw materials used in tool making. (Chert, ^{chalc} ^{donny})

(Eg) → Vindhyan hills, deccan plateau and Baluchistan

② Gauging subsistence patterns and strategies

a) Analysis of bone remains of animals as well as crop remains

b) Identifying levels of sedentariness.

(Eg) → In Mehrgarh, the sedentariness increased in upper layers due to availability of large number of domesticated animals (cattle, goat) and plants (rice, wheat) remains.

③. Reconstruction of social customs and practices

a.) Analysing unique finds and regional activities help us identify common activities of people

(Eg) → Ash mounds in Utters → ritual burning of cow dung

Community feasting area in Budihal

Burying pets with humans in Burzham

④. Level of technological development

a.) Analysis of tools, housing and artefacts gives glimpse of technical innovations.

(Eg) → Presence of pottery in middle phases in Mehgarh
→ Large number of home tools in Burzham etc.

⑤. Study of human physiognomy

by studying burials and their bone analysis.

(Eg.) Burials in Mahadaha, Dandama and Sarai Nahar Rai in UP. give important clues about diet, nutrition and average age of adults.

However certain limitations such as loss of artefacts, environmental degradations and incorrect stratigraphy can pose major challenges in the review and analysis of this age.

Q.2 (c) Discuss the social & economic factors for the rise of Buddhism. How far was it influenced by Upanisadic thought? [20 Marks]

The emergence of Shramanic religion in the 6th century BCE is often attributed to the complex socio-political-economic milieu present in the north India at that time.

Factors behind rise of Buddhism

1. Social factors

a) Opposition to Brahmanical domination by Kshatriyas

- It was an attempt by Kshatriya to accord themselves superior position in society
- Kshatriya considered superior Varma in both Buddhism and Jainism

b) Social reform movement

- aimed at alleviating conditions of people from lower classes.
- Women and Shudra ⇒ allowed to join Buddhist Sangha.

- Buddhism considered sacrifices as meaningless
- Refused to accord divine sanction to Varmanas — as in Brahmanism
- Monks were advised to accept food from anyone including shudras.

③ Economic factors

a.) Supported by rich merchants (Setthis)

- As Brahmanism condemned usury.
- an attempt by merchants to gain upward mobility in the society.
- Setthis shown in Buddhist texts in good light.

b.) Supported by peasants

- Large scale animal sacrifices led to scarcity of cattle.
- It adversely impacted agriculture which was dependent on draught animals.
- Emphasis on Ahimsa and rejection of sacrifices attracted farmers.

c.) Disillusionment of many people with rising materialism

↳ Wanted to go back to the vedic age devoid of greed, theft etc.

↳ Buddhism provided an alternative and simple way of life for them.

Upanishadic underpinnings of Buddhism

① Less focus on rituals and sacrifices

a.) Buddhist texts repeatedly downplayed the importance of sacrifices in worshipping.

b.) Chandogya upanishad - also mentions that by performing sacrifices one can only lead to world of forefathers but by gaining jnana one leads to world of god.

② Importance of knowledge

a.) The goal of upanishadic ideology is cultivation of jnana (knowledge) which can lead to liberation (moksha).

b) Similarly, buddhism talks about Brahmana as an enlightened person (and not by performing sacrifice).

c) The goal of Buddhism is Nibbanna (enlightenment) and becoming free of worldly desires.

However there were significant differences between the two ideologies —

① Upanishad never rejected sacrifices as buddhism.

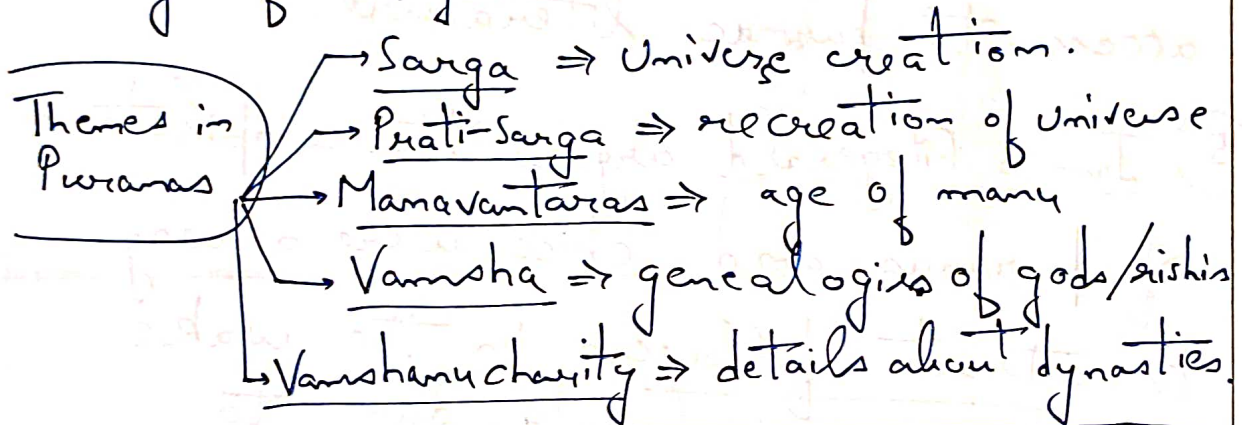
② Upanishads believe in atman (soul) as opposed to buddhism.

③ Upanishads held and strengthened the 4-fold varna classification opposed to Buddhism.

Thus although there were certain similarities, significant differences existed in basic concepts between the two ideologies.

Q.3 (a) Puranas were the innovative genre of literature to popularise and revive Vedic religion.
Elaborate. [15 Marks]

Puranas were an important part of Brahmanical literary corpus dealing in wide variety of subjects.



Role of Puranas in popularizing Vedic religion

- ① Written in simple language which could be comprehended by common people.
- ② Description of stories using myths, allegory, magic and supernatural beings to attract common people.
- ③ Stories about victory of good over evil — satisfied people in that era

④ Increasing social base - although barred from Vedic corpus, women and kshudras were allowed to gain access to puranic literature.

⑤ James Fitzgerald argues the compilation of puranas and epics were a way to attract followers in the wake of waning popularity due to Buddhism and Jainism.

Thus puranas form a crucial component of historical analysis of that era ~~through~~ throwing light on social customs, practices as well as development of brahmanic religion.

Q.3 (b) Did ancient India have any interest in preserving the memory of the past? Critically Discuss.
[15 Marks]

Many historians have argued the lack of sense of time and historiography due to complex nature and inherent issues in analysing the ancient literatures.

Issues in analysing ancient literatures

- ① Predominantly religious character — there is an almost dearth of secular texts.
- ② Normative natures presenting view of ideal society according to authors.
↳ (Eg.) Dharmashastras prohibit varna exogamy but lay down rules for 'anuloma' marriages
- ③ Mixing of facts, events with myths, allegory and hyperbole.
- ④ Complex and mind boggling conception of time. (Eg) → Time periods in Puranas (Yuga, Kalpa)

⑤ frequent additions, removals and modifications in old text to suit the contemporary context.

(eg) Didactic portions of Mahabharata were added in the later centuries.

However, completely discarding ancient texts as certain sections represents an attempt to preserve memory of pasts -

① Puranas gives the detailed genealogies of various dynasties → Haryanka, Nandas, Mauryas, Andhras etc.

② Ashokan inscriptions — Rock edict 13 describes ashoka's experience in the aftermath of Kalinga battle.

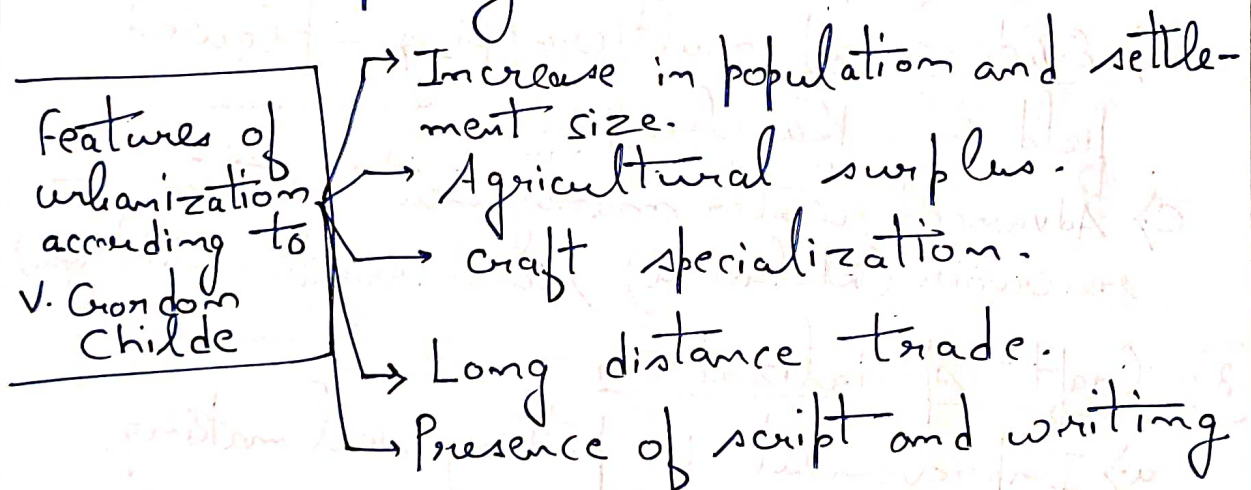
③ Royal prashastis (Panegyric) — Allahabad inscriptions gives conquest of Samudragupta. Similarly Aihole and Nasik inscriptions give details of Pulakeshin II and Gautamiputra Satakarni.

④ Ancient Sangam texts - provide a glimpse of ancient Tamilakam society, economy
↳ Puram poems - by lords were aimed at memorializing the achievements of their patron kings in war.

Thus, the oriental views of ancient past and historiography should be changed in the presence of mounting evidence depicting an active tradition of record and book keeping and inscriptions in ancient India.

Q.3 (c) "The Indus Valley civilization represents the first urban revolution in India" Comment. [20 Marks]

The Harappan civilization emerged in the North West of the Indian subcontinent in the bronze age (3rd millennium BCE) and is classified as 1st phase of urbanization by R.S. Sharma due various unique characteristics differentiating it from the contemporary Chalcolithic cultures.



Analysis of urbanization in Harappan civilization

① Large settlement size

a) Presence of huge sites like Rakhigarhi (500 ha), Mohenjodaro (250 ha), Dholavira (100 ha)

b) According to some estimates, the population of Mohenjo-daro was about 40,000.

c) Exquisite urban planning, specialized structures, well planned drainage.

② Diversified subsistence base

a) Remains of wide variety of crops found - Barley, wheat, rice, gram, peas, sesamum, dates, grapes, watermelon. etc.

b) Evidence of multicropping - plowed field in Kalibangan.

c) Advanced water management system - reservoir (Dholavira), canal irrigation (Shortugai)

③ Craft specialization

a) Improvement in pottery, seal making, bead making, jewellery etc., shell-making.

b) Specialized craft centres like Chanhudaro, Lothal, Nageshwar etc.

4. Internal and External trade networks

- a) Copper from Khetrimines, Lapis lazuli from Afghanistan, and beads, shells from Gujarat transported.
- b) Presence of Harappan seals in Bahrain, Oman \Rightarrow indicate active trade networks.
- c) Harappan etched Carnelian beads have been found in Mesopotamian royal graves at Ur.

5. Presence of a well developed script

- a) Can be found on seals, sealings, pottery and wooden signboard (Dholavira)
- b) Logo syllabic and written from right to left.
- c) Longer inscriptions were in houstrophedon style.
- d) helped in trade and record keeping

⑥ Level of technological advancement

- a) Able to manufacture bronze by combining Copper and Tin.
- b) Architectural knowledge to construct huge, specialized structures (great bath, granary).
- c) Thriving bronze sculpture art using lost wax technique.

It is because of these unprecedented features in Harappan civilization, it is often hailed as first urban revolution in the Indian subcontinent.

Q.4 (a) Mention various sources showing the presence of the Indian Republics and factors responsible for their rise in the sixth-fifth centuries B.C. What factors led to their decline? [15 Marks]

Q.4 (b) Critically examine the various views regarding the role of iron technology in ushering Second Urbanisation in Ancient India. [15 Marks]

Q.4 (c) Will it be proper to consider the Megaliths to represent a single, homogenous or contemporaneous culture? What kind of material life and culture system is revealed in the megalithic cultures? [20 Marks]

