

<i>Ardhija Gupta</i> NAME	 Mobile No.	 <i>@gmail.com</i> Email ID
-------------------------------------	--	---

Start Time:

End Time:

ANSWER SHEET

SECTIONAL TEST- VIII

(ANCIENT INDIA)

Copyright © by SELFSTUDYHISTORY.COM

Time Allowed: 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 130

=====

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.

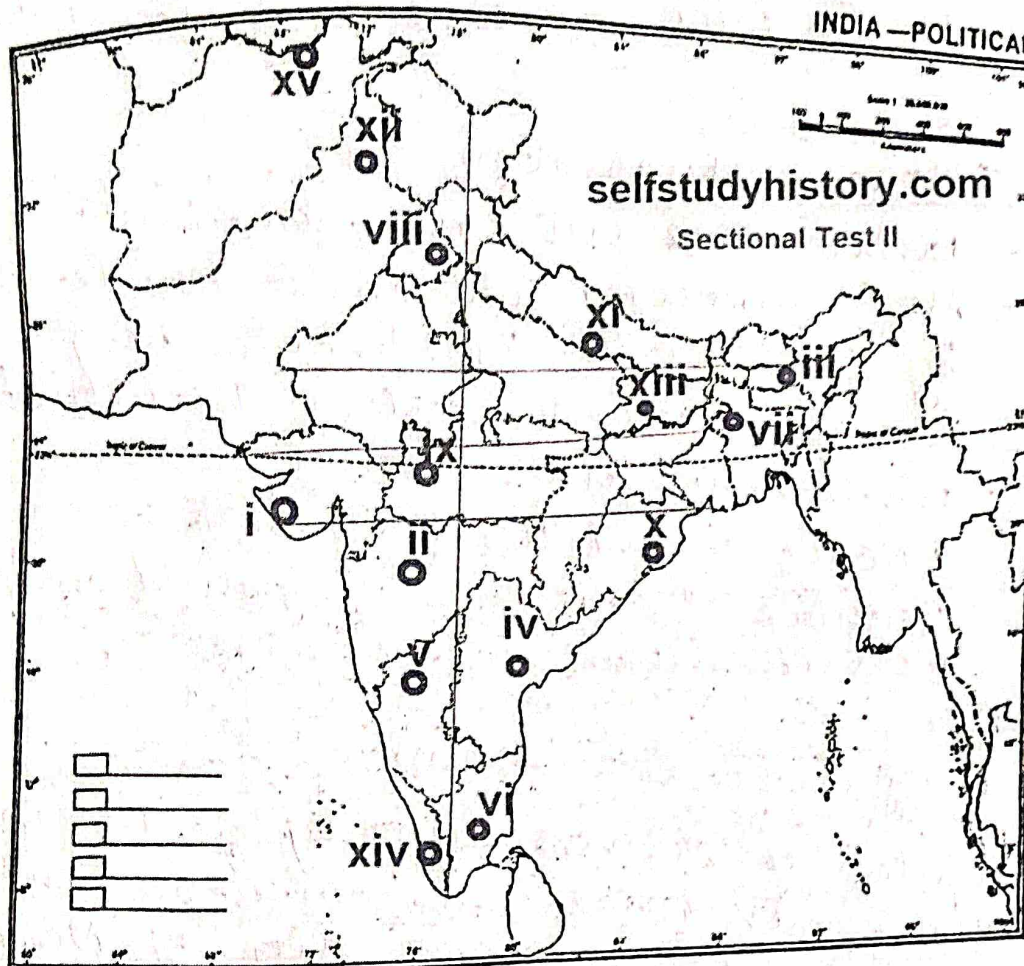
Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

=====

Selfstudyhistory.com
Contact: 9717510106, 8210076034 9718593510
Email ID: selfstudyhistory@gmail.com

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 serially. [15x2.5= 30 Marks]



(i) Major Ashokan rock edict

- Junagadh / Girnar / Junagadh - Gujarat
- Major rock edict of Ashoka with propagation of Dhamma. Its presence depicts east westward expansion and extent of Ashoka's empire.
 - Mention of inscription by Rudradaman with construction of Sudarshan lake.

- important trade centre
- important place on western trade route from ancient to medieval times.

(ii) Site of rock cut architecture

Ellora - Maharashtra

- Famous rock cut cave monuments.
- Most famous Kailashnath Temple built by Krishna III, Rashtrakuta king.
- Hindu, Jain as well as Buddhist monuments and shrines.
- UNESCO world Heritage site
- Beautiful sculptures engraved in caves
- Bodhisattvas also present.

(iii) Ancient capital city

Pragjyotishpura - Assam

- Capital of Varman dynasty of Assam.
- Bhaskaravarman was an important ruler who was an ally of Northern ruler Harshavardhana.
- Famous Hindu temples located here.
- In medieval times, it was under Ahom dynasty.

(iv) Political and religious centre

Amaravati - Andhra Pradesh

- Satavahana capital
- Famous for Amaravati school of art.

- very famous Buddhist centre.
- Some Buddhist images depict even Hellenistic influence.
- Bodhisattvas, monasteries, Temples found.
- Flourishing political, religious and commercial centre - 200 BCE to 300 CE.
- Buddhist stupas found.

(v) Political and religious centre

Badami / Aihole - Karnataka

- Capital of western Chalukyas
- Famous Aihole inscription of Pulakesin II found written in chaste Sanskrit by court poet Ravikirti.
- Inscription mentions exploits of Pulakesin along with his victory over ruler Harshavardhana.
- Famous Hindu and Jain temples.

(vi) Jain site

Sittanavasal - Tamil Nadu

- famous Jain cave site
- Important for its unique art and cave paintings.
- Beautiful colours and themes used
- Important during Pallavas, Cholas and then Vijayanagar Empire.

(vii) Mahavihara site

Tagaddalla - Present day Bangladesh

- famous ancient Education centre
- One of the five gems along with Nalanda and Vikramshila
- Received patronage of Pala rulers of Bengal
- when Bakhtigar Khilji sacked Nalanda, Vikramshila, many learners shifted here
- famous for Buddhism, Tantrism

(viii) Buddhist site

Sanghol

(ix) Political centre

Ujjain - Madhya Pradesh

- Important ~~med~~ commercial and political centre from ancient to early medieval history

- Famous jyotirlinga Onkareshwar located here.
- Important trade centre during Guptas.
- One of the Ardhakumbha Mela sites along with Nashik, Prayag and Haridwar.
- Famous temples and stupas.

(x) Famous inscriptional site

Udaygiri Khandagiri caves - Odisha

Hathigumpha inscription

- Inscription of Chedi ruler Kharavela.
- Mentions his military exploits over Pushyamitra Sunga of Magadha, Greeks or Yavanas and other deccani rulers like Satavahanas.
- Mentions his patronage for art and learning including donation for Ashat temple. Also tells of his religiously tolerant attitude.
- Inclination towards Jainism.
- Irrigation works, built palace etc.

(xi) An ancient capital

Kapilavastu

- King Sudhodhana, father of Siddhartha, Greatama Buddha ruled here.
- Queen Mayadevi gave birth to Siddhartha here. Dreamt of white

- elephant .
- Famous Buddhist site . UNESCO world Heritage site
 - visited by Chinese pilgrim Hsien Tsang .

(xii) Political and commercial centre

- Purushapura - Pakistan , Modern day Peshawar . Important ancient city
- Capital of Kushanas
 - lied on Ancient silk route .
 - Buddhist art and culture flourished during Kushanas
 - Traded with western world .
 - later times under Mughals in medieval India .

(xiii) Cultural and educational centre

- Nalanda - Bihar
- important educational centre .
 - Had nearly 10000 students , 3000 teachers . Patronized by Gupta , Harsha .
 - Huge three libraries , thousands of books and original manuscripts .
 - Buddhist studies . Visited by Hsien Tsang and I-tsing .
 - staying facility , dormitory .
 - Sacked by Bakhtiyar Khilji

(xiv) An ancient port

Muziris

- Important ancient port.
- Traded with ancient Rome
- Traded ~~was~~ in Arretine pottery, Roman gold coins recovered from here.
- Traded with Rome in spices, plant species, perfumes etc.
- Mentioned in Sangam text. Mentioned by Pliny and in Periplus of Erythraean Sea.

(xv) An ancient trading post

Bamyan - Afghanistan.

- Famous Buddhist site. Famous statue of Buddha engraved in Rock
- UNESCO world heritage site
- was destroyed by Taliban, then rebuilt by Afghan govt. later.
- Important trading post, resting place on ancient trade route via land.
- important during Alexander, ~~the~~ Mauryas, Kushanas, Mughals.

Q.2 (a) With the help of literary and archaeological sources, critically evaluate the hypothesis that there was urban decay during c. 300-600 CE. [15 Marks]

After a flourishing period with rich socio cultural and economic state of North India, historians believe that it was followed by a gloom in the economic and urban activities.

Prof. R.S. Sharma and D.D. Kosambi believe that period from 200 BCE to 300 CE was culturally and economically prosperous. It was followed by an 'urban decay' in the words of R.S. Sharma.

Sharma believes that the decay began in Gupta period itself, identified during later Gupta and took full shape in the post Gupta period. 'Urban decay' here means decline in urbanization and flight towards ruralization and agriculture.

Sharma and Kosambi gives literary and archaeological evidences to prove the stance ⇒

- i) Being archaeologically, this period revealed least coin and inscriptions.
- ii) Coins during later Guptas like Skandagupta and then during Harsha has seen debasement indicating economic crisis.
- iii) Purana as a literary source mentions 'Kali age crisis' which makes Sharma form 'Kali age crisis theory' where the supremacy of Brahmin and Kshatriya was threatened by Vaishya and Sudra's progress which made former acquire more land, leading to decentralization, ruralization and gave rise to feudalism.
- iv) Inscriptional evidences suggest rural descriptions, land grants to Brahmins, expansion of agriculture etc.
- v) Very few references to crafts men and artisans.

This view has been attacked by Y.S. Subbarayalu and others. He observed that $\Rightarrow$

- i) Hardly at any point of time, not more than 20% of land was granted to Brahmanas. So with this, Kali age crisis theory can't be held true.
- ii) Subbarayalu observes that there are evidences in Tatakas and some south Indian later Sangam texts of bustling markets, towns.
- iii) City of Ujjain was flourishing as evident from literary sources.
- iv) Bengal ports like Chandradwip and Tamralipti were still used for trade as evident from contemporary inscriptions.

Thus Subbarayalu believes that even if there was an urban decline, it was not uniform throughout the nation. Moreover, the period still witnessed prosperity in few regions.

Q.2 (b) Critically examine the notion of the Mauryan state being a highly centralized system. [15 Marks]

One of the first true monarchies and perhaps the strongest pan Indian Empire was laid out by the Mauryan Empire of Magadh in the 3rd C. BCE. The extent of the empire was as vast from Shahbazgarhi in Pakistan to Maski in present day Karnataka.

The contemporary sources for study of Mauryan Empire namely, Kautilya's Arthashastra, Megasthenes' Indica and the inscriptions of Ashoka has thrown some light on the administration of the empire. On the basis of these three sources, early historians had concluded that Mauryan Empire was a highly centralized state system. This is because $\Rightarrow$

- i) The administration was in the sole control of the ruler.
- ii) He appointed 'Dhammamahamatyas' or officers to propagate his thoughts.

- iii) He had secret spies directly reporting empire's whereabouts.
- iv) ~~He~~ The emperor had sole control over trade.
- v) Economy was controlled by him with respect to ~~printing currencies~~ minting coins etc.
- vi) official census of people as well as cattle was taken.
- vii) Arthashastra mentions that ruler should be available for people all the time which later Ashoka also preperended. Thus direct connection of people with ruler.
- viii) Arthashastra and Indica mentions that all the land actually belonged to ~~peop~~ ruler and thus he had right to tax.
- ix) Ruler at authority regarding law and order, judicial matters, crafts and trade etc.

Therefore these factors reveal a highly autocratic rule without any decentralization. However, modern historians went a step beyond contemporary sources.

Gerard Fussman argued that it is practically impossible for one ruler to directly rule such a vast pan Indian Empire.

Chandragupta as well as Ashoka had provincial governors ruling at distant provinces and providing the peripheral kingdoms some autonomy.

Historian Romila Thapar believe that it was like Mauryan Empire had been superimposed on already existing empires. Therefore, what was done was that the emperor directly ruled the core and let local rulers manage periphery till they recognize Ashoka's supremacy or Mauryan supremacy.

Thus though the area under control was ruled strictly, there were disturbed or some far flung areas where power had been devolved due to ease of administration and some decentralization was evident as believed by historians.

Q.2 (c) Examine the nature of political control of the Gupta kings. Also underline the main features of their government. [20 Marks]

After the fall of Kushanas, there was no strong empire controlling the entire North India until the advent of the 'Imperial Guptas'. Their rule literally covered entire North India and Deccan included Bundelkhand and as far south as Malwa region.

Gupta dynasty ruled for almost three centuries and held sway for at least two centuries. There has been some extremely charismatic rulers followed by successive weak rulers which has been visible in the form of political control by Gupta kings.

i) Chandragupta I was the first great ruler of the Gupta dynasty who had held sway over entire North India. He had captured territories through conquests as well as matrimonial alliances. He directly controlled most territories of the empire.

ii) Samudragupta - Son and successor of Chandragupta I was perhaps the greatest ruler not just of Gupta dynasty but of entire ancient history of India. Vincent Smith had called him Indian Napoleon due to his brilliant conquests.

This nature of political control had been revealed in his Prayag Prashasti of Allahabad by court historian Harishena. He had directly controlled the Ganges basin kingdoms. He had also brought the peripheral Atavika Rajyas under direct control.

Regarding the deccan and South Indian kingdoms, he had captured them and then left them after to rule independently after they had recognized his suzerainty. He was acclaimed as far South as Madurai.

iii) Chandragupta II was successor of Samudragupta and was the climax of Gupta period.

He also continued to acquire territories and held his sway through both conquests and matrimonial alliances. He married his daughter Prabhavati Gupta to Vakataka ruler Rudrasena II after whose death, Prabhavati ruled indirectly with the help of a minister sent by Chandragupta II. Thus he held ~~the~~ sway over north India as well as Deccan.

His bravery is depicted from Mehrauli Pillar inscription which mentions King Chandra. We also get about him from Vishakhadatta's Devichandraguptam. Chandragupta II too ruled like his predecessor most of the territories directly but far flung areas were semi autonomous. He destroyed Sakas.

After Chandragupta II, the rulers became militarily weak and focused more on art and culture e.g. Kumaragupta.

System of land grants began and thus territory was greatly lost by the time of Skandagupta.

Some features of their government -
i) later Gupta rulers began to donate more and more land leading to decentralization of polity.

ii) This led to loss of revenue for state which earlier led the emperor like Samudragupta maintain huge army. This resulted in Huna invasion at a later date.

iii) The emperor was assisted in governance by ministers. He had a dandanayaka, minister of law and order, law and justice, high priest or purohit etc.

iv) Trade posts of west coast were controlled by them till they were lost of Maitrakas of Vallabhi.

Thus the later Guptas became quite weak due to both political succession by weak rulers as well as decentralized policy decisions.

Q.3 (a) "The reign of Kharavela of Kalinga was not just significant for the military activities only." Explain with reference to the Hathigumpha inscription. [15 Marks]

Eastern India had seen coming of few great dynasties in ancient India. Chedi dynasty of Odisha was one such prominent dynasty. King Kharavela was its most important ruler worth a mention.

Kharavela is famous because of the famous Hathigumpha Inscription inscribed ~~to~~ by him. Although the inscription is full of praises, it does give few interesting insights in the ~~see~~ reign of Chedi ruler.

Military achievements of Kharavela -

- i) He • claim to have defeated the ~~Pishu~~ Sunga king Pushyamitra Sunga.
- ii) He went as far north as Ganges and Pataliputra and brought back Jina image and other artefacts looted by Nanda ruler.
- iii) He also defeated other contemporary rulers of deccan like Sakas.

Apart from a military genius, he had deep interest in art and culture.

- i) Kharavela followed Jainism and during his reign, Jainism flourished.
- ii) He developed Udaygiri and Khandgiri caves which are Jain caves and gives us earliest traces of Odissi dance form. It perhaps developed during Kharavela.
- iii) He was tolerant towards other religions.
- iv) He gave donations to Brahmans as well as Buddhists.
- v) As per the inscription, he did some contribution to the Arhat temple.
- vi) He constructed caves, residential areas for monks.

He was also a man of great architectural and civic sense.

- i) He developed old canals, rebuilt broken temples and mathas.
- ii) Constructed new irrigation system and ~~not~~ repaired old ones.

iii) He built palace of victory on both banks of Prachi River .

Despite his cultural genius, he also paid attention to the enemies. He fought bravely against contemporary Satavahana king Satakarni. ~~at~~ inscription also mentions that he drove away Yavanas (Greeks) or (foreigners). His journey of Uttarapatha to Magadha is most famous one.

Thus Kharavela stands out as one of the multiquality genius and a remarkable ruler of ancient Odisha or Kalinga.

Q.3 (b) Mention the nature and impact of India's contact with Western Asia and the Mediterranean world during the Maurya period. [15 Marks]

Contacts of Indian rulers with the outside world as old as history itself. Mauryan rulers however paid special attention to foreign relations especially with respect to west Asia and Mediterranean world.

Trade with these areas continued even during Harappan civilization. Mauryas also traded in goods with western world. Trade was mainly overland. However, overseas trade was also observed.

Nature of contact with west Asia and Mediterranean ⇒

- i) Exchange of goods and services with western empires.
- ii) Spread of Buddhism as far west as Mediterranean by Ashoka's messengers.
- iii) Exchange of culture and language with the west.

iv) Embassies were also exchanged ~~with~~ ~~At~~ between Mauryan rulers and the western world as far as Greece.

It had far reaching impact ⇒

i) As a result of cultural and literary exchange, ambassadors were sent. Megasthenes was one such ambassador who had left account Indica with respect to Mauryan Empire.

ii) Trade flourished as we came to know that Bindusara asked for figs and honey from the ruler of Rome which request was accepted.

iii) Art and culture ~~was~~ ^{was} also exchanged. Iranian effect could be seen in Mauryan pillars e.g. Bell capitals, polish and lustre similar to Iranian pillar etc.

iv) Ashoka has carved his inscriptions in Kharoshthi script, Aramaic script which is Iranian and Greek

scripts respectively. This throws light on the western influence on Mauryan empire.

It is because of this contact with the then countries of Greece, Persia, Arabia etc ~~with~~ that today we have historically archaeological as well as literary evidences of the contemporary rulers and activities of 3rd-2nd C. BCE. Impact not just ~~political~~ economic and socio cultural, some political impact with respect to policies could also be seen similar in the between the empires.

Thus the nature and impact of Mauryan contact with west had far reaching significance on history as shaped today.

Q.3 (c) "Of all the events that had a singular bearing on the history of India, Harsha's death in 647 A.D. is significant." Why? Explain. [20 Marks]

King Harshavardhana of vardhana dynasty who ruled from Kanauj had a sway over vast area from Kashmir in north to Ujjain in south. In fact many regard him as the last Hindu monarch who kept North India bounded.

Harsha's death in 647 AD is regarded as significant because of the events following. It is often called as a period of 'urban decay' by many historians. North India began to enter Early Medieval India with following features ⇒

- i) Feudalization was gaining significance.
- ii) Ruralization of towns.
- iii) Decline of cities.
- iv) Agriculture gained prominence over crafts activities.
- v) Position of Brahmins and Kshatriyas further strengthened and that of Vaishyas and Sudras declined.

Vaiśyas were degraded as ~~much~~ much as Śūdras. Alberuni who came to India said that Vaiśyas got their tongues cut on uttering vedas.

- vi) Position of women further deteriorated. Sati and Devadasi were prevalent both in north and south India.
- vii) Caste system strengthened.

Most of these conditions were the result of absence of a centralizing force and a powerful monarchy. The entire nation region was broken up in many small king-doms. Moreover, the kings in order to gain legitimacy, had granted more and more land to Brahmanas as 'devadanas' 'Brahmadeya' land and to temples as 'devadanas'. This led to decentralized polity, lack of effective army and exploitation of peasantry. No wonder some temple began acting like Bankers.

Prof. R.S. Sharma and D.D. Kosambi had called this as urban decay and decline in towns and cities. This has been contested by Prof. Y.S. Subbarayalu who stated that the land was not feudalized. Most of the lands extended as land grants was uncultivated land as per Subbarayalu and therefore, Brahmanas and temples brought this land under cultivation.

Subbarayalu also mentions that land was extended by rulers to gain legitimacy over people. He, however, continued to maintain control over empires and held sway.

Thus logical conclusion would be as pointed out by most historians ~~at~~ that the events following Harsha's death were not uniform throughout country. North India saw some vacuum. However, South India continued

to flourish under Chalukyas of Badami, ~~and~~ Pallavas of Mammalapuram and Pandyas of Madurai. Cultural developments were also rich.

However, there is no doubt looking at the events following Harsha's death that, it did indirectly affected entire subcontinent. Due to the North India being exposed to foreigners in the absence of a strong ruler, it was first faced - 'Invasion of Sindh by Arabs' as recorded from 'Chachnama'.

Later on there were continuous invasions and plunders throughout early medieval India until the establishment of Delhi Sultanate in ~~1206~~ 1206. However, the cultural and literary developments continued despite political vacuum.

Keeping the then situation and facts in mind, early medieval India post Harsha definitely played an important role in shaping centuries to come.