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Start Time: 9.00

End Time: 10.30

ANSWER SHEET

SECTIONAL TEST- II

(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.

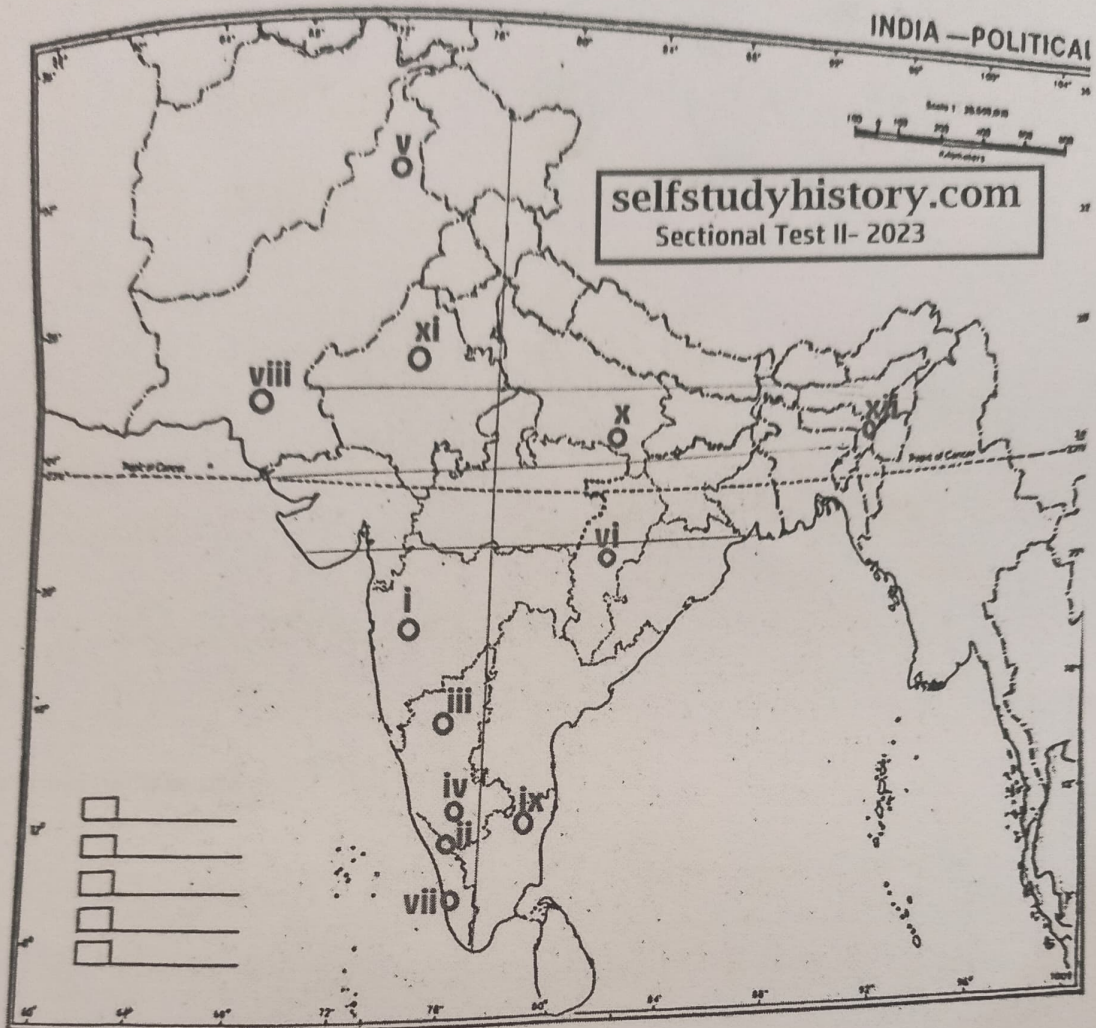
Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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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. [12x2.5= 30 Marks]



(i) Chalcolithic site Inamgaon

→ Chalcolithic and Megalithic site

→ Multiple phases of chalcolithic phase

- Jorwe, Malwa etc.

→ Burials found within houses

eg: Burial of men in a four-legged
urn.

→ Housing patterns show social stratification

(ii) Petroglyph cave site Badakkal caves

- ① Located in Idukki dist., Kerala
- ② Neolithic phase including tools found.
- ③ Cave paintings
 - One painting show similarity with Harappan paintings (motifs)
- ④ Evidence of pottery

(iii) World heritage site Pattadakal

- Group of Hindu and Jain temples
- Political and religious centre under Chalukyas of Badami
- Temples show vesara style with high Dravidian influence.
- Badami and Aihole are located nearby.
- Located in Bagalkot dist., Karnataka

(iv) Jain site

Shravane, Belgola

- Site of famed Gomakeshwara, Bahubali statue built by Garyas in 10th centy
- Mahamastakabhisheka ritual attracts many pilgrims.
- statue is seen in Kayotsarga posture
- Chandragupta Maurya is said to have renounced throne, become Jain monk and committed Sallekhana here.

(v) Political and cultural centre

Taxila

- ① Located near modern Rawalpindi in Pakistan
- ② Taxila university was a centre of learning. Famed for medical science, law, religious learning etc.
- ③ Capital of Gandhara, Mauryan etc.
- ④ Gandhara school of art flourished here.

(vi) Ancient religious site

Sripur

- ① Located in Chattisgarh
- ② Previously known as Sripuri

- ⑤ Ancient capital of South Kerala
- ④ Religious centre - Buddhist, Jain and Hindu
 - Hindu site for Shaivism and Vaishnavism

(vii) Ancient port Muziris

- Identified as modern Kodungallur in Kerala.
- Ancient power centre and trade port of Saryan Cheras and later Imperial Cheras
 - Saryan texts, Periplus of Erythraean sea, Pliny etc. mentions
 - Muziris Heritage project of Kerala govt. seeks to revive glory.

(viii) Harappan site

Chanhudaro

- Located in Sindh, Pakistan
- Mature and Late Harappan phase
- Artefacts:
 - fortified citadel, beads, ornaments, weights etc.

- Harappan production centre of crafts
- Use of drainage, standardised bricks etc.

(ix) Megalithic site Paiyampalli

- ① ~~The~~ erstwhile vellure dist., Tamil Nadu
- ② Neolithic site as well
- ③ Various polished tools, pottery etc. found.
- ④ Megalithic burials - numerous grave goods including iron tools.
- ⑤ Agriculture was practised

(x) Mesolithic site Chopani Mandi

- ① Allahabad district, UP
- ② ~~At~~ Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic site.
- ③ Located in Belan valley, close to Jaldihwa and Mahagara
- ④ Domestication of animals
- ⑤ Wattle-and-daub houses

(xi) Palaeolithic site

Didwana, Rajasthan

- Upper and ~~late~~ middle palaeolithic site
- Various crude tools found, made of quartzite
- Animal bones - hunting
- People also probably lived off gathering, as ice age was gradually withdrawing.

(xii) Neolithic site

Neolithic site

① In North Cachar hills, modern Dima
Hasao district, Assam

- ② Absence of microliths
- ③ People lived in natural caves only
- ④ Link between Indians and Burmese neolithic industries
- ⑤ Tools - ~~quartz~~ - sandstone, fossil wood etc.

Q.3 (a) Describe the contribution of the Pallavas in the field of literature, art and architecture. [15 Marks]

Pallava dynasty ruled over South India focusing on Tondaimondalour and their peak power was between 600 and 900 CE.

Contributions of Pallavas

A. Literature

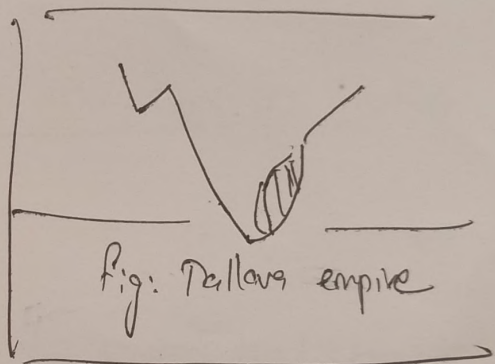
Pallava period saw beginning of Tamil literature post Sangam era magnificence.

→ Evolution of script

eg: ~~Tamil~~ Grantha script

→ Highly patronised by kings.

eg: Appar, bhakti saint, ~~and~~ was patronised by Mahendravarmar. Various



Compositions of Appaiahu were later included in Tevaram.

→ Kings like Mahendravarman himself composed works

eg: Makavilasa Prahasanam

→ Various inscriptions experimented with writing styles.

eg: Nandiyappattu inscription in Sanskrit

B. Art

→ Pallava paintings — mural tradition in South India

- wide opened eyes
- use of vivid colours
- themes included religious themes.

Though there was influence from Ajanta style, Pallavas developed their own unique method of paintings which later grew under Cholas.

eg: Arumalai paintings, Kancheepuram Varadachari temple murals etc.,

C. Architecture

Pallavas inaugurated Dravidian temple architecture.

① Early phase - rock cut cores.
It also witnessed Pallava - I shaped pillars, inscriptions, dravapalas etc.

ej: Mandappattu temple - mahendravarman I

② Narasimharvarman style

Evolution of free standing temples carved out of monolithic rocks with wide inscriptions - Pallava lion, ganas etc.

ej: Pancha rathas, Mahabalipuram

③ Rajasimhan phase & final phase

free standing bricks and stone temples with delicate carvings and features of above
ej: shore temple, Leander Kalisenthra temple

~~The~~ The ember of literature, art and architecture ignited by Pallavas in South later

Q.3 (b) Evaluate the account of Fa Hien as a source of history of Ancient India. How his account can be compared with the account of Hiuen Tsang? [15 Marks]

Fa Hien was a Chinese pilgrim who visited India in search of Buddhist books and traditions in the period of Chandragupta II. He visited places like Shravasti, Pataliputra, Sarnath etc. and made elaborate recordings in "Record of Buddhist Kingdoms"

Account of Fa Hien as source of history

Fa Hien makes accurate observations of Indian society and traditions.

① Social conditions

India as a peaceful country, free of theft. There was no cruel punishments very severe crimes get amputations

Fa Hien notes plight of charolas

Who resided outside cities and entered by making noise.

② Economic conditions

He speaks of climate of India, various crops etc. India was a rich country and people competed to do charity.

③ Religious conditions

Wide tolerance existed. Very detailed account of traditions, customs and myths.

His observations give a third person's view of India of the times. It aided historians to reconstruct India as the beliefs of people got recorded.

But, there were severe limitations.

① Fa Hien presents an idealistic view of Indian society, far from reality eg: No crimes, no drinking etc.

② Fa Hien was only focusing on Buddhist aspects of India, though he mentions other religions. He do not even mention the ruling King's name.

His idea was probably to inspire his readers in China to live an idealistic life on Buddhist terms.

In comparison, with Huan Tsang,

① Huan Tsang wrote his account after going back to China, thus avoiding biasness to India.

eg: He mentions being robbed twice.

② Huan Tsang's accounts are more comprehensive and detailed. — economic, social, political aspects too.

③ But, unlike Huan Tsang, Fa-Hien does not get associated with Indian Kings, avoiding some biasness. eg: Huan Tsang presents idealistic picture of Harsha.

However, we have to understand that both accounts were written from a religious angle, centuries apart.

This also allows us to compare progress of Indian

Q.3 (c) Discuss Ashoka's Dhamma with its various interpretations by historians. What methods did Ashoka adopt for its propagation? [20 Marks]

Ashoka's dhamma was a social and moral code, aimed at upliftment of Ashoka's subjects which is largely understood from edicts of Ashoka. ~~He started this project~~

Interpretation of Ashokan dhamma

R C Majumdar → equated it with Buddhism.

He pointed out with similarity in values like ahimsa, acceptance etc. This can be further substantiated using his edicts.

- Minor rock edict 1 → Ashoka as lay follower of Buddha

- Minor rock edict 3 → Ashoka recommends 6 Buddhist texts as guide for dhamma.

Ans, one can see negative influence of Buddhism on

dhamme, Ashoka also sent embassies to Sri Lanka and West for dhammadiffusion which led to spread of Buddhism

eg: Sanghamitras bringing both tree branches to Lanka.

Others → This claim of Megasthenes gets refuted by others who says that Ashoka was trying to unite 'good principles' from all religion.

eg: Ashoka asking to respect Brahmins (Major rock edict III)

Social views of dhamma → Some historians point that Ashoka had paternalistic love toward his subjects and wanted to contribute to their moral upliftment and social unity. Dhamma was result of that and primarily dominant concepts of morality got reflected in it.

eg: Ashoka calling his subjects "children"
(major rock edicts v)

Ramita Thapar → offered a much wider view
Ashoka was an innovator. He understood
the weakness of his empire and lack of
proper communication. Heterogeneous nature
of the empire led to conflicts. Ashoka
wanted to unite his empire for times to
come under a common social code.
Thus, dharma was result of his
political needs.

eg: His experience of rebellion at Taxila
as prince.

→ This led to emphasis on tolerance,
compassion, liberalism, charity etc.

Ashoka used multiple methods to propagate
his dharma.

① Ashokan edicts - pillar, rock edicts.
They got inscribed in crucial communication lines and trade points. As population was illiterate, they were also read out.

② Bureaucrats - In rock edict III (major) and pillar edict IV, Rajukas, Pradeshikas etc. are given instructions.

He also appointed dhamma mahamatras specifically

③ Dhammajetras - pilgrimages to Buddhist sites
eg: visiting Bodhi trees

④ Charitable works were Ashoka leading with examples

⑤ Embassies to other countries
eg: Major rock edict XIII - Dhammajetras over Greek countries

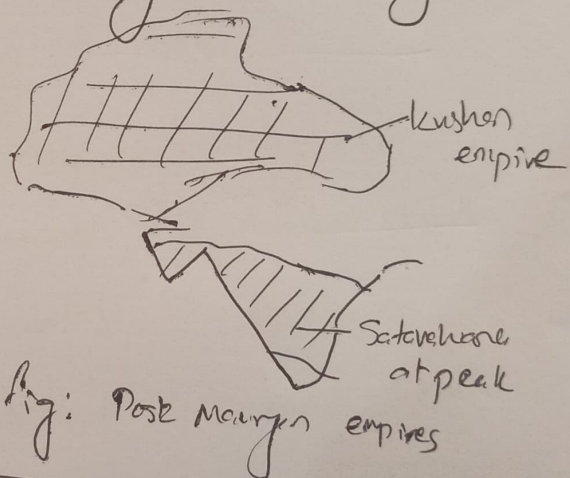
Thus, Ashoka was inspired by prevailing morality and social norms of time, but political rob might

Copyright © by SELFSTUDYHISTORY.COM have inspired him to expand his imperialism by conquering the dhamma. 27

Q.4 (a) Give the political and economic outlook of the Kushanas and the Satavahanas based on the numismatic evidence of the period. [15 Marks]

Kushanas and Satavahanas were post-Mauryan empires that controlled vast parts of India until rise of Guptas. They issued vast coins with portraits which aided historians in reconstructing their history.

Numismatic evidence
&
Political outlook



① Imperialism

Both Kushans and Satavahanas issued large number of coins, though they had elements of feudalism. This shows the imperial hold.

② Portraits of Kings - this was to emphasise authority of king. Geographic

external of empire also can be found.

③ Divine theory of kingship.

Kushan coins mentions terms like Devaputras in this aspect.

Both Kushans & Satavahanas had religious motifs which was also to emphasise their right to rule.

④ Coiner-structure of coins.

eg: After Gostamiputra's victory over Nahapana, later's coins got coiner struck

- this probably was to emphasise authority of victor in conquered lands.

Numismatics and economic view

① Material usage

Kushans issued large number of gold coins. This emphasise their prosperity ~~and~~ due to proximity to silk route.

Sakavaharas used lead, potin, silver etc.

This probably indicate lack of gold or use of gold in other forms for large trade (eg: billions)

② Large number of coins were found indicating spread of trade and artisanal activity over an agricultural surplus.
Quality of Kushan gold coins were also remarkable.

③ Motifs eg: ships in Vajras Sri Sakalemsi coins

This indicate spread of sea trade and importance for ports.

Political and economical viewpoint over coins differed slightly between both as demonstrated, but had commonality derived from the prosperity of the period.

Q.4 (b) What were various factors responsible for the decline of the Gupta Empire? Explain. [15 Marks]

Gupta empire (319 - 550 CE) is often regarded as 'golden age of India' by ^{nationalist} ~~some~~ historians. Travellers like Fa Hien attest to material prosperity of the empire. Thus, the decline of empire has to have multiple dimensions.

Decline of Gupta empire - factors

① Rise of Feudalism

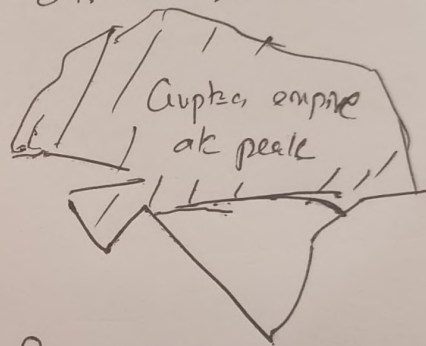


Fig: Gupta's

Likes of R S Sharma attest that Indian feudalism was on rise with spread of land grants. If centre was weak, feudal lords tend to assert independence.

eg: Yashodharmas of Malwa challenging
Guptas

② ~~Economic~~ Hun invasion

Central Asian Hun tribes began
arriving in hordes under likes of
Tamara & Mihirkula. High initial
invasions were averted by Skandgupta
(inscriptions), repeated arrival weakened

Guptas

eg: They sought aid of Yashodharmas,
augmenting his power.

③ Economic decline.

Collapse of prosperous Roman-Chinese
trade axis with decline of Han dynasty
and Western Roman Empire impacted India,
at ~~mid~~ centre of axis.

Repeated Hun invasions exhausted treasury.

Excavations show quality of gold dinars declining to half of Kushan purity. This was supplemented by rise of a closed economy and urban decay (feudal localism) as per historian like DD Kosambi.

(A) Social Factors.

Romila Thapar asserts that ^{material} prosperity of Gupta age was restricted to upper classes. This might have alienated masses from rule.

(B) Weak successors of Skandagupta

No rulers worthy of name arises till Harshavardhana in north India

We have to recognise words of Tajeeb that no civilisation will meet decline due to external factors. They can atmost give a coup de grace.

Q.4 (c) Delineate the rise of Feudalism during the period of later Guptas and discuss its main features. [20 Marks]

The term 'Indian Feudalism' is widely debated with many claiming the features similar to European feudalism while others negate it entirely. But, rise of feudal lords was definitely a process that strengthened in Post Gupta times.

Rise of feudalism - Post Gupta

Historians discuss multiple factors as responsible

① Land grants are often considered to be a major factor behind feudalism.

Inscriptions show that often ^{certain} the ~~the~~ rights over inhabitants of land gets transferred to donee.

eg: Mandasor inscription
Grants to brahmins → brahmadeyas

Secular grants also existed eg: to merchants

② With economy declining due to collapse of long distance trade and urban decay, it formed a vicious cycle.

→ Land grants led to rising importance of land. Rome - China trade axis broke meanwhile which led to decline of overseas trade.

→ All this led to reverse migration to villages, further rising importance of land.

→ This led to rise of feudalism which brought internal barriers to trade, further accelerating process.

③ 'Monetary Anemia theory': R S Sharma

points to decline of coins circulating at the point.

But, John S Deyell says total volume of coins remained & only quality declined.

④ Weakening of central authority also led to rise of regional aspirations, fueling feudalism.

⑤ Some historians also point at bhakti, which led to concept of loyalty and devotion to lords.

All this mostly led to rise of a closed and self-sufficient, agrarian economy supported by local lords.

Opposition to rigid states that, some trade continued especially with South East Asia. Towns like Kanachi, Kanauj etc. were replacing old towns and pilgrims continued their travels across, connecting villages. eg: Travels of Shankaracharya

But, the elements of feudalism were still evident and only its intensity is under question. A

Features of Indian Feudalism

D D Kosambi points to feudalism from above & below (two-step process).

- ① There was feudation & sub-infeudation. Forced labour was common and lords had revenue, judicial and administrative rights.
- ② No manor system existed but inscriptions point transfer of rights of inhabitants pointing to serfdom.
- ③ Land became most important resource & agriculture was prime economic activity. Those who held land controlled power.
- ④ Closed economy, limited trade in essentials (salt), growth in brahmanical power etc. were features.

Thus, growth of feudalism led to decline of

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force of disruption like ^{Turkish} ~~Sultans~~ invasion was necessary to overcome it.