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SELFSTUDYHISTORY.COM ALL INDIA ONLINE HISTORY OPTIONAL TEST SERIES-2020

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# ANSWER SHEET

## SECTIONAL TEST- VII

### (ANCIENT INDIA)

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Time Allowed: 105 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 150

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There are FOUR questions in this paper.

3/4

Candidate has to attempt THREE<sup>3</sup> questions in all.

Question Nos. 1 is compulsory and out of the remaining, TWO are to be attempted. 2, 4

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

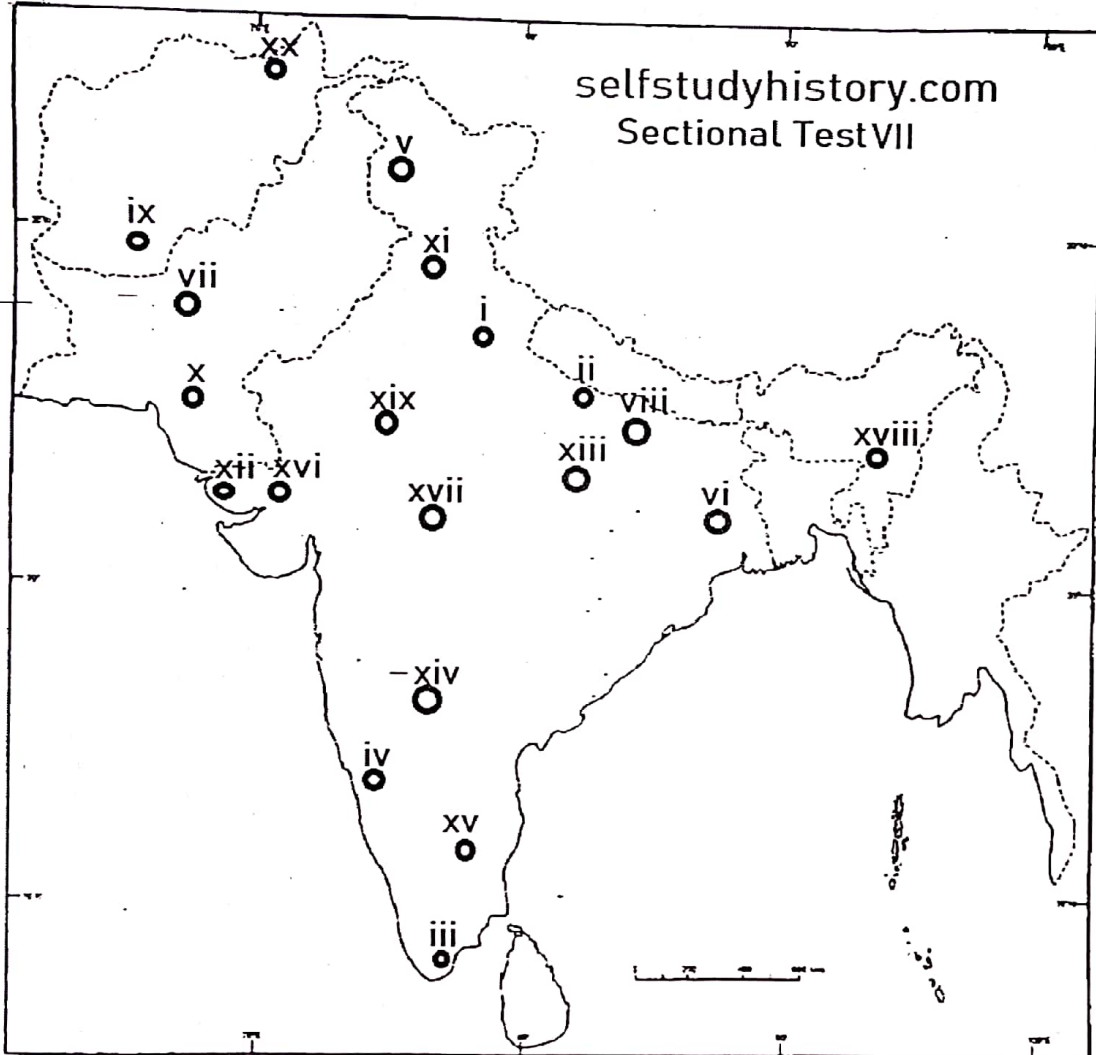
Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

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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Q.1 Identify the following places marked on the map into question cum answer booklet supplied to you and right about short notes of 30 words on each of them in the space provided in the booklet.

2.5x20= 50 Marks



(i) PGW Site

Hastinapur

- Modern day Meerut in Uttar Pradesh
- Pottery objects like pots, etc. found
- Also the capital of Kuru Mahajanapada

(ii) NBPW and PGW site

Shravasti

- modern day shravasti district of Uttar Pradesh
- ancient capital of Koshala
- varieties of potteries and Urns found
- situated near ancient trade route of Uttarapatha.

(iii) Meghalithic site

Adinachallur

- Tuticoin, Tamil Nadu
- double burial evidences found
- objects like flake, celts etc. found
- one of the earliest megalithic site.

(iv) Neolithic-Chalcolithic site

Hallur

Haveri district, Karnataka

- remains of agricultural practices are found.

- Copper objects like knives, flaked
- evidences of burial system also found here.

(v) Neolithic site Burzahom

- 16 km north east of Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir union territory.
- earliest found evidences of agriculture in north India.
- Megalithic evidence also present here.

(vi) Chalcolithic site Pandu Rajar Dhibi

- Burdman district, West Bengal
- due to closeness of iron ores in the region, it was highly developed in Chalcolithic objects.

(vii) Early agricultural site Mehrgarh

- In central Pakistan area

- considered as an earliest settled village and precursor of Indus valley civilization.
- evidences of agricultural practices also found.

(viii) Chalcolithic site

Chirand

- west Champaran district, Bihar
- copper objects like celts, flakes, sharp tools etc. found.
- not much left evidences because of wet topography.

(ix) Harappan site

Mundigak, Afghanistan

- one of the earliest Harappan site.
- transition from rural to urban civilization can be seen through evidences available or found here

(x) Ancient craft factory

Chanhudaro

- It is also a Harappan site as well.
- Craft like pottery, Bangle, terracotta figurine.
- It declined with decline of IVC.

(xi) PGW and Harappan site

Ropar

- Rupnagar district, Punjab
- No early Harappan evidence.
- Pottery of painted grey ware type is found.

(xii) Late Harappan site

Desalpur

- Kutch district, Gujarat
- one of border city of Harappan civilization and was used as trade centre.

(xiii) Palaeolithic and Mesolithic site

Chopani Mando

→ Allahabad, Uttarpradesh

→ evidences of palaeolithic, mesolithic and neolithic site can be found here.

→ one of the highly excavated pre-historic site.

(xiv) Palaeolithic site

Hungsi

→ evidences of earliest survival of humans found here.

→ basic objects made of stone like flakes, cut etc. found.

(xv) Neolithic site

Paiyampalli

→ in Tamil Nadu's Vellore district

→ evidence of agriculture and domestication of animals through cereals and bones remains found here.

(xvi) Early Harappan site

Surkotada

- Kutch district, Gujarat
- Not highly urbanised as well other sites of Indus valley civilization.
- In new research, evidence of dairy production found near this area

(xvii) Mesolithic painting site

Bhimbetka

- Raigarh district, Madhya Pradesh
- hunting scenes through paintings
- Rock cut cave sites
- Dancing scenes were also portrayed.

(xviii) Neolithic site

Dagjari Hedding

- Cachar hills, Assam
- evidences of agricultural practices are found here
- period of Neolithic phase here is little later than rest of Indian sites.

(xix) Mesolithic site Bagor

~~Patnagar~~

- Rajasthan
- early signs of domestication of animals are found here.
- due to dry climate, most of evidences are safely preserved.

(xx) Ancient trading post

Shortughai

- Northern Afghanistan
- It is also a Harappan site
- well
- trading point Indian subcontinent and Central Asia through Uttarapatha.

Q.2 (a) On the basis of contemporary sources, bring out various features of administrative system of Mauryas. [20 Marks]

Mauryan rule was established by the Chandragupta Maurya in 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE which continued till 185 BCE which provided stability and continuity in the area.

Most important contemporary sources for information about Mauryan empire are Arthashastra of Chanakya, Indica of Megasthenes and inscriptions of the Ashoka etc.

Features of administrative system ⇒

(i) Despotic Monarchy ⇒ The king was central authority of power in Mauryan empire. Kingship was hereditary in nature although primogeniture was not compulsory. Arthashastra and Indica both have same views about it.

(ii) Ministers ⇒ King has ministers to

help him in day to day business, Chanakya was the closest advisor and minister to Chandragupta Maurya. Bureaucracy was mainly based on merit. Other ministers like Sandhi-vigraha (minister of war and peace), Sambharta, Sanghrita (treasurer) etc. were also there.

(iii) Empire was very big so it was divided into many provinces which were under the control of visyapati who paid regular tribute and revenue to central authority.

(iv) At village level, Gramini was the head of village who managed day to day affairs of the village.

(v) Mauryans kept a well maintained army consisting of infantry, cavalry, elephants, Chariots etc.

- (vi) Megasthenes also tell about that 6 committees each consisting of 5 members was formed to look for day to day business in urban areas.
- (vii) Arthashastra also gives details about the spy system which was necessary to keep eyes on suspicious activities.

Administration system of Mauryas was highly -centralised and top heavy. According to historians like RC Majumdar and Ramils Trepper this led to the disintegration of Mauryan empire when rulers were not highly capable like Ashoka or Chandragupta.

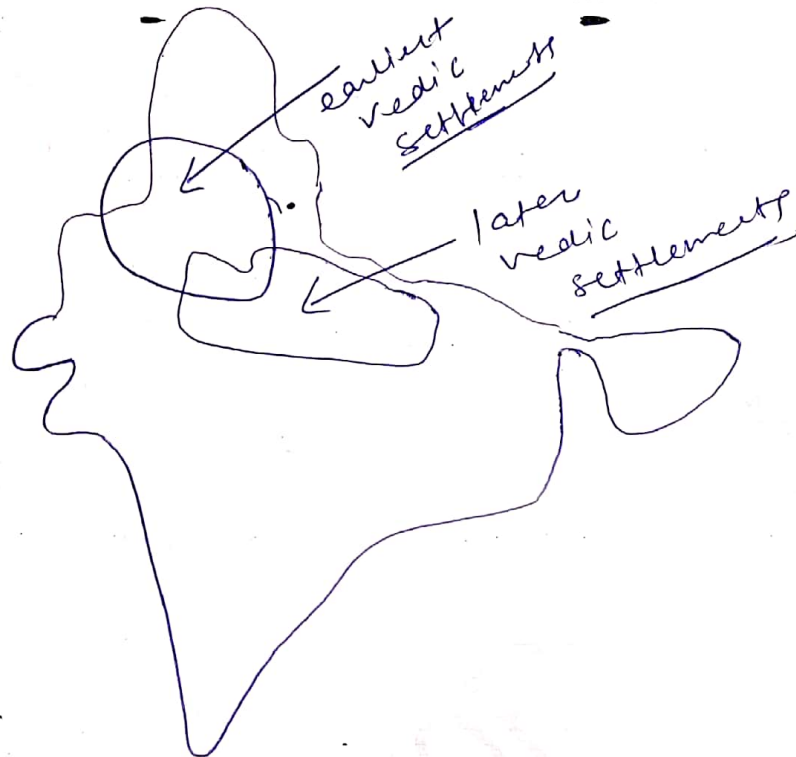
Q.2 (b) Give the description of human settlement as known from the Vedic sources. [15 Marks]

Vedic sources mainly consists of literary sources or oral traditions. literary sources includes four vedes i.e. Rigveds, Yajurveds, Samaveds and Atharvaveds. other contemporary sources like archaeological evidences from PGW sites, Jataka stories etc. give critical information about the vedic settlements.

Vedic age can be mainly divided into two parts

- (i) Early Vedic age (1600 BCE - 1000 BCE)
- (ii) Later Vedic age (1000 BCE - 600 BCE)

Rigveds mentioned about the names of rivers which presently are in Punjab region of modern India. so this give information about their earliest settlements



PGW sites like Ropar, Hastinapur, Ahichchhatra, Ahrajikhera, Shreemati etc. confirm the earliest evidences of vedic settlements.

→ Battle of Ten Kings mentioned between Bharata and others near Ravi river also speaks about settlement in this region.

→ Vedic age was mainly pastoralist and rural economy so this region was alluvial and highly productive.

→ In later vedic age settlements moved towards east in search of new land and iron technology. As population grew, they required more cereals to grow so they covered extensive areas in northern region.

This shows the vedic settlements were based in a large area and migrated according to rising need from one area to other.

Q.2 (c) What factors led to the rise of food producing activities in Neolithic period? Give different views. [15 Marks] ✓

V. Gordon Childe termed neolithic age as the neolithic revolution because he considered that food production was a revolutionary step in the evolution of human kind.

Factors that led to food producing activities in neolithic period are :-

(i) Change in environment ⇒ After the pleistocene age (10000 BCE), climate in Indian subcontinent became warmer and more conducive for food production. This argument was supported by Burton Stein in his theory.

(ii) Population Growth ⇒ Growing population put pressure on existing resources and this led to think about something other than hunting for survival. This led

to idea of agriculture.

(iii) Normal evolution ⇒ According to some historians, it was a normal process of human evolution as necessity is the mother of invention. Nothing extraordinary event took place.

(iv) According to RS Sharma, food production activities were result of a many factors like environment factor, need to survive, food for animals, availability of water sources.

Neolithic people didn't produce food at a large scale so it can't be termed as a revolution in modern sense but the starting of food production led to foundation of many civilization like Indus Valley

Civilisation and later on Mahajanapades  
etc. So this step proved to be  
the one of the most significant step  
in the evolution of modern human  
history.

Q.3 (a) "Though Puranas were primarily religious in content, they provide us with bountiful of secular knowledge." Elaborate. [20 Marks]





Q. 3 (b) "There is no literary sources for the Harappan culture and no archaeological evidence for the Vedic period." Comment. [15 Marks]





Q.3 (c) "Buddhist ideas and Upanisadic thoughts shows many similarities but also some differences."  
Comment. [15 Marks]



Q.4 (a) Do you agree with the view that ancient Indians did not have sense of historiography?  
 Explain with the help of examples. [20 Marks] ✓

Colonial historians like F. Max Mueller, Jones, V. Gordon Childe put forward the theory that Ancient Indians did not have sense of historiography. They don't know how to rule or keep their records. Colonial historians put this theory on the evidences like Ancient Indians have no written chronological sources about themselves, and they were unaware about history.

Colonial historians put this theory forward to legitimize their colonial rule and reiterate their point that they are here to civilize the native people. Even Macalawy said, "one shelf of British library is more valuable and informative than the whole ancient Indian historical writings".

To counter this colonial notion and to generate self esteem in Indians, nationalist historians like Rajendra Lal, R.G. Bhandarkar, K.A.W. Seshmi, A.D. Pusalkar, Lala Lajpat Rai etc countered this colonialist theory by giving examples of Artheshehins of Chanakya, literary vedic sources, Banar's Marshcherita and Kalhana's Rajtarangini etc.

But both the interpretation are not completely true as they proclaimed respectively.

According to me, As R.G. Collingwood argued in his book "what is history?" that the different civilizations and settlements have different styles of history keeping. So Ancient Indian

• People preferred oral traditions or such as Itihes-Purans literary tradition. Ramila Thappan argues that it will be wrong to say that the ancient Indians had no sense of historiography by comparing with European method of history writing. She further argued that although Indians lack chronological history writing but literary sources like Vedas, Puranas, Secular literature, Sangam literature, Inscriptions are in plenty.

So, before Kalhana's Rajतरंगिणी Indians have no chronological historical writing to show but this can not termed as a lack of sense of historiography. Indians followed oral-bardic tradition.

to transfer knowledge from one generation to other. And even if they wrote, objects like leaves easily got destroyed in time. Indians had a sense of history, although very different from present day European notions.

Q.4 (b) "On circumstantial evidence Indra stands accused." Discuss the given statement in the context of the decline of Harappan Civilisation. [15 Marks] ✓

Mature Harappan phase is considered between 2600 BCE to 1900 BCE. There are lot of theories about the sudden decline of Harappan civilization. One of the earliest popular theory is that Aryan invasion led to the decline of Harappan civilization.

Historians like Mortimer Wheeler, and Stuart Piggott argued that Aryans led by Indra (Purandara) attacked the Harappan cities which led to their decline. In evidence they put that 37 skeletons together is found at Mohenjodaro which indicates of war and mass killing. This forced people to move out and most were

killed so civilization declined.

They also mentioned Rigvedic sources which mention Indra being a large catapult and considered as a destroyer of civilization in Rig vedic and Aryan people. This led to believe them that Indra may have destroyed because he was capable to do it and also archaeological evidences are found as well.

But upon critical analysis, it was found that all 37 skeletons belonged to different - different periods, they just were at same place but timing was different.

Also, Aryans migrated to India

Subcontinent around 1500-1600 BCE  
 but Harappan civilization declined  
 in 18-19th BCE.

Theory of climate change put forward  
 by Fairervis and Deley is the  
 most accepted theory in present day.

This explain that Harappan civilization  
 decline due to climate change and not  
 of Aryan invasion.

So Indra is free from accusations  
 of decline of Harappa in spite of some  
 archaeological evidence.

Q.4 (c) Analyse different views regarding rise of Varna system in ancient India. [15 Marks] ✓

A society based on Varna system is divided into 4 parts i.e. Brahmans, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and shudras. Even modern Indian society follows this system, but its roots go back to early vedic age.

(i) In early vedic age there were basically 3 varnas i.e. Brahmans, Kshatriyas, and Vaishyas. Rigidity was not there, as people can change their Varna according to their profession. Rig vedic sources didn't put much emphasis on it.

(ii) In later vedic age, 4 varna concept became clear, 4<sup>th</sup> being the shudras, but here also people can move from one varna to other. Even in one family members can have different profession.

A Rig vedic hymn says, " I am a poet,

my father is a physician and my mother grinds corn, yet we live in a same family but earn income from different sources"

This shows that rigidity was still not high in later vedic age.

(iii) During Mauryan empire and post Mauryan period was dominated by Buddhism and Jainism, so Varna system was not at a central stage.

(iv) foreign invasions and revival of Brahmanism in 2-3<sup>rd</sup> CE along with decline of heterogeneous religion led to rigid varna system, Brahmans put responsibility on king to maintain social order to continue Varna system.

Hien Tsang mentioned that when shudras came into cities of higher varnas they came by beating sound so that other people get aware about them. They lived

separately and led separate profession.

(v) During Gupta times and after that Varna system became birth based. If you are born in Shudra family, you are a Shudra, not based on profession.

Later on with feudalism and more decline of Jainism and Buddhism, led to rise of Varna system in India which in a way still prevalent. Varna system was not developed in a single day, it was a large process which took centuries to settle.

Comments after evaluation

