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Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_

End Time: \_\_\_\_\_

# ANSWER SHEET

## SECTIONAL TEST- VIII

### (ANCIENT INDIA)

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Time Allowed: 105 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 150

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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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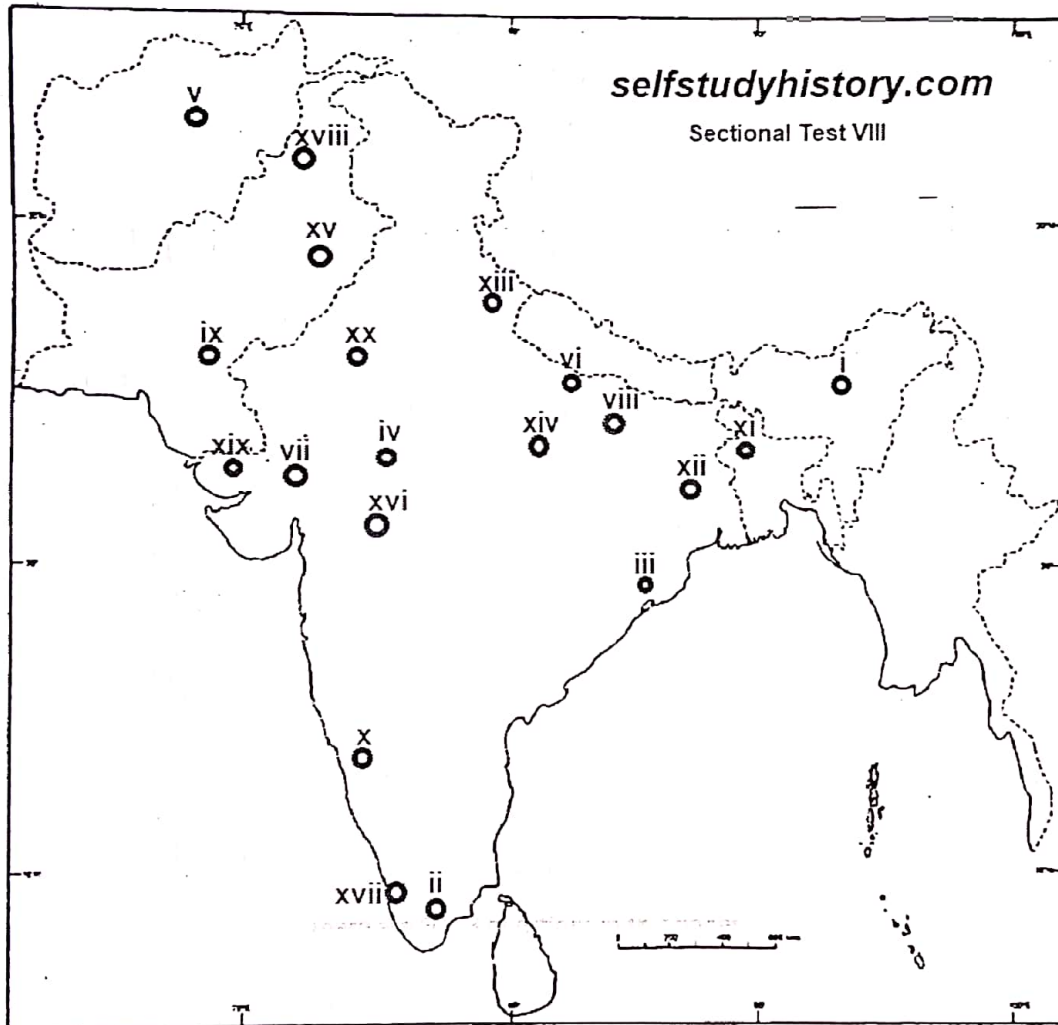
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Comments after evaluation

**SECTION A**

Q.1 Identify the following places marked on the map 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:

2.5x20= 50 Marks



- (i) Ancient temple site *Dah Parbatiya*  
 → *Tezpur Assam*  
 → *It is related to Vishnu and*  
*Valshnave traditions*  
 → *built in Nagere style mainly.*

(ii) Ancient capital city Madurai

- Capital of Pandyas
- famous for world class temple such as Brihadeswara etc.
- important trade centre point

(iii) Cultural centre Bhubaneswar

- in Odisha
- famous for temple architecture
- cultural activities like painting, education etc.
- modern day capital of Odisha state of India.

(iv) Famous inscription site Besnagar

- famous for Heliodorus writings on inscription
- in modern day Vidisha, in Madhya Pradesh
- It was also a cultural centre.

(v) Ancient Buddhist site Bamyan

- UNESCO world heritage site in Afghanistan
- in modern times, Taliban attacked here and destroyed.
- Important Buddhist site as Fe-hien and Hsuen Tsang visited.

(vi) NBPW and PGW site Shravasti

- Shravasti district in Uttar Pradesh.
- Also the capital of Vatsya Mahajanapada

pedes

→ situated on ancient trade route and important cultural centre.

(vii) Mesolithic site Devni Mori

- Mehsana district, Gujarat.
- stone tools like sharp edges knives, chert etc. found.
- evidences of bones also here which suggested burial system.

(viii) Neolithic site Sarai Nahar Rai

- Goraikpur, Uttarpradesh
- signs of agricultural and animal domestication
- tools and pottery belonging to OCP also found.

(ix) Early Harappan site Kot Diji

- Sindh province, Pakistan
- not much urbanised as were mature sites
- evidences of agriculture remain like rice, barley found here.
- Polished pottery also found.

(x) Megalithic site Hallur

- Haveri district, Karnataka
- Also Neolithic - Chalcolithic site
- double burial site
- tools like chert, quartzite made, pottery etc.

(xi) Ancient capital and inscription site Mahastangarh

- Bogra district, Bangladesh
- Provincial capital of Maurya and

Guptas,

- Inscriptions of Pala, and Maurya dynasty also found.
- It is also a Buddhist site.

(xii) Pre-historic site Birbhanpur

- Burdwan district, West Bengal
- one of most researched site in West Bengal
- No evidences of earliest agriculture here
- Bones and tools of mesolithic period found here.

(xiii) Ancient rock shelter Lakhudiyar

- Kumaon hills, Uttarakhand
- literal meaning is one lakh caves
- Buddhist caves mainly and paintings of high class also

found here.

(xiv) Early agriculture site Koldihwa

- Near Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
- earliest evidences of agriculture found in Indian sub continent.
- Remains of barley and cereals found
- domestication of animals also there

(xv) Proto-historic site Hareppa

- situated on Ravi river in Pakistan
- first site found of IVC.
- Granaries, grid system and signs of urbanisation are completely evident.

(xvi) Chalcolithic site Navdatoli

- West Nimar district, Madhya Pradesh.

- Stone tools were polished along with agricultural evidences.
- Harappan influence can also be seen here.

(xvii) Ancient port Muziris

- Cranganore district, Kerala
- Major export trade port
- Also mentioned in Periply of Eratosthenes  
sea and by Pliny
- major trade items were Ginger, Cotton,  
Silk etc

(xviii) Ashokan edict site Shahbazgarhi

- In Pakistan
- Kharoshthi script
- influenced by Achaemenid empire.
- one of 14 major rock edicts
- Ashoka's Dharmic policy.

(xix) Harappan site Dholavira

- Kutch district, Gujarat
- one of the largest mature Harappan site.
- evidence of horse bones are found here.
- No later phase here.

(xx) Palaeolithic site - Didwana

- Nagaur district, Rajasthan
- stone tools. berric like chert, found.
- in modern times, famous for Sambhar lake,
- earliest evidences of hunting and survival.

Q.2 (a) The Gupta period is considered as a "Golden Age" but the common masses lived in misery. To what extent do you agree with this statement? [20 Marks]

The concept of 'Golden Age' to Gupta period was given by the Nationalist historians such as A.D. Pusalkar, R.G. Bhandarkar, Rajendralal, RAW Saha to counter European narrative of inability to rule by Indians. They also glorified this idea of Golden Age to generate self esteem in Indian masses.

Aspects of Goldenness in Golden Age:-

(i) Gupta period provided stability and peace in a large area. Rulers like Samudragupta, and Chandragupta were very efficient.

(ii) Art and literature flourished in this period. Kalidasa and Amarsimha were in the courts of Samudragupta.

(iii) Till 450 AD, trade was flourishing and positive balance of payment led to better urban life.

(iv) Chinese traveller like fa-hien also provided information about efficient governance system, which further supported idea of Golden age.

But Gupta period can't be termed as Golden age in absolute terms.

There were lot of limitations as well.

(i) position of women didn't improve much. Eran inscription tell about the first sati in 510 AD.

(ii) wealth earned by trade was only limited to urban centres. Rural masses lived in misery and poverty.

(iii) After 450 AD, trade also declined significantly which is proved by less number of gold coins.

- (iv) Varne system got more rigid and caste system came to front in this period.
- (v) Gupta period didn't achieve much in terms of architecture as well,
- (vi) major occupation was agriculture for large masses.

This shows that the position of common masses didn't improve from Mauyan or earlier period. Even women suffered more in Gupta period.

It can be said that Golden Age in golden age was limited to certain upper section of the society rest lived as before in misery.

Q.2 (b) "Harsha combined in himself the piety of Ashoka and the valour of Samudragupta." Discuss this statement. [15 Marks]

Harsha ruled over the most of the Northern India from about 610 AD to 645 AD. He shifted his seat of power from Thanesar to Kannauj and ruled from there. Two most important source of Harsha period are Banabhat's Harshacharita and Hsien Tsang's Si-yu-ki.

Piety of Ashoka in Harsha ⇒  
Ashoka's Dharm policy was almost a crux of all religions. According to Ramile Thapar, he used Dharm men for political aggrandizement. Ashoka was a follower of Buddhism and took part in welfare activities: He spread his message all over the Indian subcontinent and gave up on war after Kaliny's war.

Harsha was a follower of Maheyan

Buddhism. His extent was very limited in compare to Ashoka. He also held Buddhist council like Ashoka. But he never gave up war.

Harshe had similarity with Ashoka but at miniscule level Ashoka was bit different even in pity from Harshe.

As valour of Samudragupta Harshe called himself as "Sakaleuttaransho" (King of whole north) which is not true in complete sense. According to R.C. Majumdar many parts were outside Harshe rule.

Harshe was a brave ruler and he took long journey for war. But he lost to Pulakesin II. According to Aihole inscription. Samudragupta had ruled over a very large part of Indian subcontinent as compared to Harshe.

Samudragupta was never beaten in war unlike Harsha. Samudragupta left behind a rich legacy for Gupta period which was not the case for Harsha.

In a way, although with certain limitations, Harsha was an impressive and brave ruler but terming him as combination of piety of Ashoka and valour of Samudragupta will be injustice to history.

Q.2 (c) Delineate the references to the slavery in different periods of ancient India. [15 Marks]

Tradition of slavery in India was present from Ancient India but it was different from European terms of slavery. History of slavery in India can be divided into different-different periods.

(i) First mention of slavery can be found in Vedic sources like the Rigveda. In Vedic period, slaves were used as workers who were not paid for their services but for other activities and time, they were free.

(ii) In later Vedic age, Varne system got rigid and with flourishing Mahajanapadas taxation increased. In that time, those who failed to pay taxes or did a serious crime, were captured as the slaves.

(iii) During Mauryan period, war prisoners were used as slaves but it varied from king to king. Some historians argue that Ashoka made 1 lakh people slaves after Kalinga war.

(iv) Post Mauryan period and Sangam age sources has references to slavery. Silapadikkam mentioned slavery. In South India, slaves were even kept for temple management.

(v) During Gupta period, slavery was very prevalent. Increasing trade and agriculture practices required slaves and workers. Slavery was legitimate during Gupta period.

(vi) Post Gupta period and feudalism (Samanta system) tenants were considered equivalent to European slaves by historians. But it was very different. In India tenants

were free to move out from the work by paying their dues.

Ancient Indian society was unaware about the modern slavery concept. but signs of slavery can be seen in every phase of - ancient period of India.

Q.3 (a) Discuss main features of the Mauryan art and architecture with examples and bring out their differences with Gupta art, if any. [20 Marks]





**Q.3 (b) Delineate the evolution of the Chola temple architecture and its culmination as Brihadishwara temple at Tanjore. [15 Marks]**





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OPTIONAL

Q.4 (a) "Ajanta art represent a blend of architecture, sculpture and painting." Elaborate. [20 Marks]

Ajanta caves situated in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra are declared as UNESCO Heritage site due to its significant architecture, sculpture and paintings. Ajanta art developed roughly from 1<sup>st</sup> AD to 10<sup>th</sup> AD. Dynasties such as Satavahanas, Pushyabhutas contributed to the development of Ajanta art.

Architecture of Ajanta Art =

Cave system of Ajanta is developed with utmost carefulness. Pillar system of Ajanta, Viharas, and Chaityas all are divided in a manner, major influence on architecture is of Buddhist ideas but evidences of Hinduism is also present.

Images of God Buddha in different positions like saving Buddha from Elephant etc. are a work of high class.

Sculpture in Ajanta's art :

Ajanta caves developed over a few centuries and different dynasties contributed to it. Sculptures of Buddha and other events related to his life are shown in various types of Mudras (positions).

Even in Chaitya walls every design and image is well thought. All possess a message and symbol from Buddha's life.

Paintings :

Paintings on the wall of Ajanta

Caves are wonder for the world to see. Different blend of colour, design and artwork is highly popular. Colours are of high quality and images can be seen clearly even to the present day.

So all in all it can be truly said that Ajanta's art represents a blend of architecture, sculpture and painting.

Q.4 (b) Discuss the specific features of agrarian society under the Pallavas. [15 Marks]

Pallavas ruled in and around modern Tamil Nadu during 6-8<sup>th</sup> century before thrown out by the imperial Cholas. Pallava had an efficient administrative system from Top to bottom. Agriculture was important source of revenue for the state as most of the land was fertile and river like Cauvery, Krishna and Tungbhadra provided water:-

Specific features of agrarian society ⇒  
 (i) mostly the land was divided into 5 ~~five~~ parts i.e. Hills (Kurinji), Plains, Coastal, desert, alluvial (Urvers) etc.

Vellalars were known as farmers.

(ii) Pallavas had highly developed irrigation system through Canals

supported by rivers.

(iii) Taxation system was not very harsh and during drought and floods farmers were not required to pay tax revenues.

(iv) Pallava kings sometime inspected agrarian areas and took measure to improve it.

(v) Pallava state was highly dependent on agrarian sources. As agriculture was well developed, slavery was also allowed in Pallava period.

(vi) Pallava fought many wars with Chalukyas over region between Krishna and Tungbhadra. This shows the importance of fertile region and agriculture.

(vii) Agrarian society had a self sufficient economy. Villages were under village head, who managed social affairs.

Peasants had a well developed agrarian social structure which provided enough revenue to efficiently rule, support army and develop architecture.

Q.4 (c) The discovery of monsoons by Hippalus gave a new direction to Indo-Roman trade during the Satavahana period. Comment. [15 Marks]

In AD 45, Hippalus discovered the monsoon, which proved to be very helpful for trade boats. Before 45 AD only around 30 boats were shipped from India to Roman empire but after discovery the number of ships increased to around 300.

Impact of monsoon discovery on Indo-Roman trade.

Indian objects like cotton, silk, ginger, cardamom etc. were in high demand in Roman empire but delivery was limited because means of transport were very hard. Only a few ships could safely travel during the whole year.

But after the discovery of the

monsoon, ~~with~~ boats started to ship with the monsoon winds to and from India - Roman. This reduced the time significantly for ships to travel. Also the number of ships increased as now less people were required to support ships to navigate in water.

In Satavahans period ports like Sopara, Barygaza were highly developed because of Indo - Roman trade. India had a surplus or positive balance of trade. Pliny criticised India for draining Gold from Roman empire through trade. As Indian objects were in high demand but in return nothing of high value required in India. So Romans paid in Gold and silver through their currency sesterces.

Discovery of monsoon helped significantly and gave a new direction to Indo-Roman trade during the Satavahana period. This led to rise of new urban centre in Satavahana period. Guilds were highly developed and important.