

ForumIAS

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## Prelims Marathon

10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2023

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*HISTORY  
ECONOMICS  
POLITY  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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## *History – Pre – History Phase*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements:**

1. Events occurring before the invention of writing are considered the domain of pre – history.
2. It is generally represented by three stone ages.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The English word ‘history’ comes from the Greek historia, meaning “inquiry, knowledge acquired by investigation”.

- It corresponds to the study of the past and throws light on various past events of significance which shaped and evolved human experiences.
- History is further divided into pre-history, proto-history, and history.
- Events occurring before the invention of writing are considered the domain of pre – history, which is generally represented by the three stone ages.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) Which of the following is an example of proto – history?**

- a) Indus valley civilization
- b) Mauryan culture
- c) Sramanic traditions
- d) Satavahanas culture

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Generally, it refers to a period between prehistory and history, during which a culture or civilization has not yet developed writing but are mentioned in the written records of a contemporary literate civilization.

For example, the script of the Harappan civilization remains un-deciphered; however, since its existence is noted in Mesopotamian writings, it is considered a part of proto-history.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) The “Pallavaram hand-axe” was probably the first Paleolithic tool discovered in India by?**

- a) Robert Bruce Foote
- b) Max Muller
- c) Alexander Cunningham
- d) Sir Mortimer Wheeler

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The history and identity of human settlements in India go back to prehistoric times.

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The credit for doing an early extensive study of Indian pre-history go to Robert Bruce Foote, who discovered what was probably the first Paleolithic tool discovered in India — the Pallavaram hand-axe.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Which of the following is/are characteristic/s of Paleolithic age?**

1. It was developed in ice age.
2. The Paleolithic man of India are said to have belonged to the Negrito race.
3. It was spread in practically all parts of India.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Paleolithic Age is the earliest period of the Stone Age, which developed in the Pleistocene period or the Ice Age.

- It was spread in practically all parts of India except the alluvial plains of the Indus and Ganga.
- The Paleolithic man of India are said to have belonged to the Negrito race and lived in caves and rock shelters.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) The “Muchchatla Chintamani Gavi” upper Paleolithic site is located at?**

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) Karnataka

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The lower Paleolithic people spread across the Kashmir, Rajasthan and also in the Bhimbetka region and Belan Valley near Mirzapur.

While the upper Paleolithic population spread in the cave sites of Kurnool and Muchchatla Chintamani Gavi in Andhra Pradesh and the middle Paleolithic people spread in the Narmada and Tungabhadra valley and the Potwar plateau.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) The Homo sapiens was first appeared in the following period?**

- a) Lower Paleolithic period
- b) Middle Paleolithic period
- c) Upper Paleolithic period
- d) Mesolithic period

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Homo sapiens first appeared at the end of upper Paleolithic phase. Coincided with the last phase of the Ice Age, when the climate became comparatively warm and less humid.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Mesolithic period:**

1. It belongs to the Holocene era.
2. The Mesolithic man lived on hunting, fishing, food gathering, and in later stages, also domesticated animals.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Mesolithic Age represents the intermediate stage in Stone Age Culture.

- Both Mesolithic and Neolithic Cultures belong to the Holocene era (which succeeded the Pleistocene era around 10,000 years ago).
- The Mesolithic man lived on hunting, fishing, food gathering, and in later stages, also domesticated animals.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.8) The “microliths” was associated with which of the following period?**

- a) Upper Paleolithic
- b) Mesolithic
- c) Neolithic
- d) Chalcolithic

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** One of the key aspects of the Mesolithic Age was the reduction in size of well-established tool types.

- The characteristic tools of this age were microliths (miniature stone tools usually made of crypto-crystalline silica, chalcedony, or chert, both of geometrical and non-geometrical shapes).
- They were not only used as tools in themselves but also to make composite tools, spearheads, arrowheads, and sickles after hafting them on wooden or bone handles.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Mesolithic rock art:**

1. Mesolithic rock art highly concentrated in south India.
2. No snakes are depicted in Mesolithic Paintings.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Mesolithic era initiated rock art in pre-history. In 1867, the first rock paintings in India were discovered at Sohaghat (Kaimur Hills, UP).

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- Now, over 150 Mesolithic rock art sites have been discovered across India, with rich concentration in Central India such as the Bhimbetka Caves, Kharwar, Jaora, and Kathotia (M.P.), Sundargarh and Sambalpur (Orissa), Ezhuthu Guha (Kerala).
- Animals dominate the scenes at most Mesolithic rock art sites. However, no snakes are depicted in Mesolithic Paintings.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) The famous “Loktak Lake” is often seen in news located at?**

- Manipur
- Mizoram
- Meghalaya
- Tripura

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Loktak Lake is a freshwater lake in Northeast India. It is the largest freshwater lake in South Asia.

It is a pulsating lake, with a surface area varying from 250 sq km to 500 sq km during the rainy season with a typical area of 287 sq km. The lake is located at Moirang in Manipur state, India.

**Source: FORUMIAS**

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## *Pre – History & Harappan Civilization*

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**Q.1) Which of the following was/were the innovation/s introduced by Neolithic period?**

1. Invention of pottery.
2. Emergence of self sufficient communities.
3. They depended on polished stones other than quartzite for making tools.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Neolithic period significance in pre-history can be gauged by the fact that V. Gordon Childe termed the Neolithic phase as Neolithic Revolution. It introduced a lot of innovations such as:

- Advent of food production: The Neolithic man cultivated land and grew fruits & corn like ragi and horse gram (kulathi). He domesticated cattle, sheep, and goats.
- Innovations in technology: The Neolithic man innovated in the production of stone tools, producing implements such as polished, pecked, and ground stone tools. They depended on polished stones other than quartzite for making tools.
- Invention of pottery: The Neolithic era communities first made pottery by hand and then with the help of the potter's wheel.
- Emergence of self-sufficient village communities: In the later phases of the Neolithic era, people led a more settled life.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.2) The famous “Chopani – Mando” Neolithic site situated at?**

- Himachal Pradesh
- Assam
- Kashmir
- Uttar Pradesh

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Chopani-mando is an important archaeological site, which indicates transition of humans from food gathering society to food production society.

It is situated in Belan river valley in modern Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh state, India.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.3) Maski, Brahmagiri, Piklihal and Budihal are famous Neolithic sites are located in which of the following state?**

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Kerala

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Maski, Brahmagiri, Piklihal (proof of cattle herding), Budihal (community food preparation and feasting), and Tekkalakota in Karnataka.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding chalcolithic age:**

- 1. It marked the emergence of the use of metal along with stone tools.
- 2. Chalcolithic people are acquainted with horses.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Chalcolithic age marked the emergence of the use of metal along with stone tools.

- The first metal to be used was copper, though they also occasionally used bronze.
- Chalcolithic people domesticated cows, sheep, goats, pigs and buffaloes, and hunted deer.
- **They ate beef but did not like pork and were also not acquainted with horses.**

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Harappan Civilization”:**

- 1. It was the first urban civilization in South Asia.
- 2. Its occupied area was larger than the civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Harappan civilization was the first urban civilization in South Asia, contemporaneous with the civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt.

Of the three aforementioned civilizations, the Harappan civilization occupied most area (about 8,00,000 sq km).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding urban planning of “Harappan Civilization”:**

1. The harappan cities were divided into citadel and lower town.
2. City planning roughly followed a grid pattern and streets ran from north and cut at right angles.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Harappan civilisation is known for its urban outlook and sophisticated sense of civic planning and organisation. In most cases the Harappan city was divided into two parts:

- Citadel/Raised Part – This part occupied a smaller area, and was frequently situated to the west of the city. Rulers of the city lived here. It also contained public buildings, granaries, and important workshops.
- Lower Part – The common citizenry lived and carried on their professional lives in this part of the city.

City planning roughly followed a grid pattern and streets ran from north and cut at right angles.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.7) Which of the following statements is/are correct about Harappan town planning?**

1. The main street being ten metres wide and dividing the town into rectangular and square blocks.
2. The streets have lamp posts at regular intervals.
3. They used dry bricks across all Harappan structures.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Distinguishing aspects of Harappan town planning are as follows:

- The streets were wide, the main street being ten metres wide and dividing the town into rectangular and square blocks.
- There were lamp-posts at intervals. They used burnt bricks of good quality and the unique feature of this brick was its identical ratio of 1:2:4 in terms of thickness: width: length across all Harappan structures.
- Equally striking was the uniformity in the average size of bricks —  $7 \times 14 \times 28$  cm<sup>3</sup> for houses and  $10 \times 20 \times 40$  cm for city walls.
- They had an excellent drainage system — drains were made of mortar, lime and gypsum and covered with large brick slabs for easy cleaning.
- Houses were often of two or more storeys, though varied in size but quite monotonous.
- No window faced the streets and the houses had tiled bathrooms. Some houses had their own wells.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**



**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding harappan society:**

1. More female figurines have been uncovered in comparison to male figurines in harappan cities.
2. The red black pottery was famous in harappan cities.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Harappans were great experts in the use of the potter's wheel but were poor in artistic works of stone.

- Primarily red black pottery (red ware pottery painted with black designs, usually that of trees and circles) was popular.
- Some of these pots were used for storing grain or water, while some perforated pots were probably used for brewing fermented alcoholic beverages.
- A lot of terracotta has been found at many sites, including figurines of animals such as bulls, buffaloes, dogs, monkeys, toy carts, and humans.
- Terracotta bangles have also been found. It is important to note that more female figurines have been uncovered in comparison to male figurines.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) Which of the following metal/s was/were known by harappans?**

1. Iron
2. Gold
3. Silver

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Copper, bronze, silver, and gold were metals known and used by Harappans, but iron was not. They were also good at metallurgy and producing alloys.

- The craftsmen used to both make artifacts out of pure copper as well as bronze such as spears, knives, short swords, mirrors, axes, needles, rings, and bangles.
- It is rather interesting that the number of pure copper artifacts was far greater than alloyed bronze ones, but it does not mean technological backwardness rather points towards cultural preference in all likelihood.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) The “Ghosu Bird sanctuary” is recently seen in news located at?**

- a) West Bengal
- b) Nagaland
- c) Tripura
- d) Bihar

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Ghosu Bird sanctuary is one of the most scenic wildlife sanctuaries in Nagaland.

- With an area of around 650 hectares, this sanctuary is home to some of the most endangered birds in India.
- The city is located by the bank of river Langki, and it is situated in the Zunheboto area of Nagaland.
- Some of the most seen birds in the Ghosu bird sanctuary are barred cuckoo dove, common wood pigeon, wedge-tailed green pigeon, emerald dove and many more.
- Apart from birds, several wild animals are also seen in the forest. Some of them are civets, pangolin, and Himalayan black bear, Hog Badger, Himalayan Serow and many more.

**Source:** FORUMIAS

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## *Harappa & Vedic Civilizations*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Harappa script:**

1. It was pictographic and logo-syllabic.
2. Harappan writing was boustrophedon.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Harappan script was pictographic and logosyllabic (each symbol stood for a word/syllable).

- Harappan writing was boustrophedon, that is to say, right to left and left to right in alternate lines. The Harappan script has not been deciphered so far.
- The evidence of a common script however points to great cultural integration, and its virtual disappearance by c.1700 BCE hints at the lack of sufficient downward percolation of writing.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.2) Which of the following place/s ancient sea port/s of Harappa civilization?**

1. Rangpur
2. Somnath
3. Balakot

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** A dockyard has been excavated in Lothal and sea ports have been found at Rangpur, Somnath and Balakot.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.3) Which of the following metal/s was/were imported by Harappans?**

1. Gold
2. Copper
3. Lapis Lazuli

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The metals imported by Harappans are gold, copper, tin, lapis lazuli, jade and lead.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.4) Which of the following crop/s was/were grown by the Harappans?**

1. Wheat
2. Rice
3. Barley

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Harappans grew wheat (especially in Mehrgarh), barley, horse gram, peas, melon, watermelon, sesame, dates, millets, grapes, henna (mehndi), garlic, mustard, rice (Lothal).

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.5) In which of the following Harappa city the remains of horse were found?**

- a) Kalibangan
- b) Surkotda
- c) Ropar
- d) Banawali

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Remains of horses at Surkotda and dogs with men in graves at Ropar have been discovered.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.6) Who among the following gave the “Arctic Region Theory” to explain the origins of Aryans?**

- a) Sir William Jones
- b) Max Muller
- c) Dr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- d) Swami Dayanand Saraswati

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The “Arctic Region Theory” was given by Dr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Homeland is the Northern Arctic region, as the Vedas speak about 6 months each of long days and long nights, which happen only in the Arctic region.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are part/s of vedas?**

- 1. Samhita
- 2. Brahmana
- 3. Aranyaka

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The word Veda has been derived from the root ‘vid’, which means to know/knowledge.

- They hold the status of Shruti (which has been heard) and have been transmitted orally for many centuries.
- Later, they were written down, and the earliest surviving manuscript belongs to the 11th century.
- There are four Vedas and every Veda generally has four parts: Samhita, Brahmana, Aranyaka, and Upanishad.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Rig Veda:**

- 1. It is a collection of 1,028 hymns, divided into 10 Mandals (books).
- 2. Rig Veda has been included by the UNESCO in the list of literature signifying World Human Heritage.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Rig Veda is a collection of 1,028 hymns, divided into 10 Mandals (books).

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They are the earliest compositions and hence, they depict the life of the Early Vedic people in India.

Recently, the Rig Veda has been included by the UNESCO in the list of literature signifying World Human Heritage.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) Which of the following is the upveda of rig veda?**

- a) Ayurveda
- b) Gandharva Veda
- c) Dhanur Veda
- d) Shilpa Veda

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The priests related to the Rig Veda are Kotri or Motri, and the Upveda of the Rig Veda is the Ayurveda.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) The famous Dhrupada raga sung by Tansen was related to which of the following?**

- a) Rig Veda
- b) Sama Veda
- c) Yajur Veda
- d) Atharva Veda

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The Sama Veda is the collection of verses mostly taken from the Rig Veda, but arranged in a poetic form to facilitate singing.

- It is a collection of 1,810 melodies, and also contains the famous Dhrupada raga, later sung by Tansen.
- The Upveda of the Sama Veda is the (Gandharva Veda).
- Recensions (Shakhas) of the Sama Veda are Kauthuma, Jaiminiya (Talavakara), and Ranayaniya.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

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## *History – The Mahajanapadas*

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**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the “Mahajanapadas”:**

1. It was known as era of second urbanization.
2. The centre of economic and political activity was shifted from North West India to eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The sixth century BCE is known as an era of ‘Second Urbanization’ in the Indian Subcontinent.

- After the decline of the Harappan towns and nearly after a gap of more than a thousand years, urban centres emerged again but not in the Indus plain.
- The centre of economic and political activity shifted from the North-West, Punjab, Haryana, and Western UP, to Eastern UP and Bihar (Ganga Basin).

**Source:** poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the “Mahajanapadas”:**

1. Most of the Mahajanapadas were situated in the north of Vindhyas.
2. According to Anguttara Nikaya, the land between Himalayas and Narmada was divided into 22 Mahajanapadas.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Most of the Mahajanapadas were situated in the north of Vindhyas, between Bihar in the east to the north-west frontier of the subcontinent.

- From c. 600 BCE, the political history of India is the history of struggles between these states for supremacy.
- According to Buddhist texts, Anguttara Nikaya (the land between Himalayas and Narmada) was divided into 16 independent states (Mahajanapadas).

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) Which of the following was the southernmost mahajanapada?**

- a) Avanti
- b) Assaka
- c) Vatsa
- d) Matsya

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Assaka was the only Mahajanapada situated to the south of the Vindhya Range, and was in Dakshinapatha.



**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Which of the following Mahajanapada was divided into two parts by the Sarayu River?**

- a) Kosala
- b) Maghadha
- c) Kashi
- d) Anga

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Sarayu river divided the Kosala state into two parts: Northern part's capital: Shravasti and Southern part's capital: Kushavati.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya



**Q.5) Which of the following was/were the Gana-Sanghas?**

1. Malla
2. Kosala
3. Anga

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** It should be noted that the most powerful states in the 6th century were Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa, and Avanti and two of the Mahajanapads, the Vajji and Malla were Gana-Sanghas.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Gana-Sanghas”:**

1. The Gana-Sanghas had a government by assembly.
2. Most of the ganas were located in or near the Himalayan foothills in eastern India.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Unlike kingdoms where they had a single hereditary monarch, the Gana-Sanghas had a government by assembly and within this assembly too, they had an oligarchy.

- Some of the Ganas were of one clan, e.g., the Shakyas and the Mallas; while the others were confederation of several clans, e.g., Vajjis.
- Most of the ganas were located in or near the Himalayan foothills in eastern India, which also suggests that probably their establishment predated the transition to kingdoms as clearing wooded low-lying hills was comparatively easier than the marshy jungles of the plain.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the “Bimbisara”:**

1. Bimbisara was the founder of the Haryanka dynasty.
2. Bimbisara was a contemporary of both Buddha and Mahavira.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Magadha’s rise to political supremacy began with Bimbisara, who belonged to the Haryanka dynasty, and ruled for 52 years, from 544 to 492 BCE.

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- In the Mahavamsa, it is stated that he was anointed as the king by his father at the age of 15, which suggests that he was not the founder of his dynasty.
- He was a contemporary of both Buddha and Mahavira, and paid equal respect to them.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) Who among the following was arranged the first “Buddhist council”?**

- Ajatashatru
- Bimbisara
- Kalpataru
- Chellana

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Ajatashatru was son of Bimbisara, being impatient to rule Magadha, is believed to have killed his father and seized the throne.

- Most powerful and aggressive ruler of Haryanka dynasty and followed his father’s expansionist policy through military conquest.
- The Buddha died during his reign. Ajatashatru arranged the first Buddhist council.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) Who among the following was called as first empire builder of India?**

- Bimbisara
- Ajatashatru
- Mahapadma Nanda
- Shishunaga

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Mahapadma Nanda also called Ugrasena in Pali texts, because of his large army. The first empire builder of India, and claimed to be the ekarat, the sole sovereign who destroyed all other ruling princes, and sarva-kshatrantaka, uprooter of the Kshatriyas.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) Which of the following is the largest tiger reserve in India?**

- Bandipur
- Bandhavgarh
- Pench
- Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The largest tiger reserve in India is the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve. Located in the Nallamala forest, the reserve spreads over five districts, Kurnool District, Prakasam District, Guntur District, Nalgonda District and Mahabub Nagar district.

**Source:** FORUMIAS

## *History – The Mahajanapadas*

**Q.1) The “Mahashilakantaka and Rathamusala” of Ajatashatru period was known for?**

- a) Shiva temples
- b) Buddhist caves
- c) War machines
- d) Forts

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Ajatashatru used two innovative military weapons:

- War engine, which was used to those stones like catapults (Mahashilakantaka).
- Chariot with mace for mass-killing (Rathamusala).

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.2) Which Magadha ruler founded the capital city of Pataliputra (modern Patna)?**

- a) Kala Asoka
- b) Udayabhadra
- c) Shishunaga
- d) Mahapadma Nanda

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Udayabhadra (Udayin) (460 BCE – 444 BCE): Founded the new capital at Pataliputra (modern Patna), situated at the confluence of Ganga and Son rivers.

- Pataliputra had a very strategic location as it lay at the centre of the Magadhan kingdom, which then extended from the Himalayas in the north to the Chhotanagpur Hills in the south.
- Probably was murdered at the instigation of Palaka, the king of Avanti.

**Source: Poonam Dahiya**

**Q.3) Consider the following statements:**

1. Magadha was the first state to use elephants on a large scale against its neighbours.
2. The capital city Rajagriha was surrounded by five hills, which helped it to provide natural fortification and was almost impregnable.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Magadha enjoyed an advantageous geographical position. Due to its proximity and control over richest iron deposits (found around south Bihar), Magadhan weapons were far superior and effective.

- Also, both of its capitals, Rajgriha and Patliputra, were situated at strategic points.

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- Girivraja or Rajagriha was surrounded by five hills, which helped it to provide natural fortification and was almost impregnable.
- Similarly, Pataliputra was more like a water fort, since it was situated at the confluence of the rivers Son and Ganga.
- Magadha was the first state to use elephants on a large scale against its neighbours.
- Elephants could be used in storming fortresses and in marching over areas lacking roads or other means of communication.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.4) Which of the following Mahajanapada is not situated in northwest India?**

- a) Avanti
- b) Kamboja
- c) Gandhara
- d) Madra

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** In north-east India, Magadha emerged as a formidable power and gradually smaller principalities and republics merged within it.

- The situation in north-western India did not allow for such consolidation.
- The Mahajanapads of Kamboja, Madra, and Gandhara were continuously fighting with each other.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.5) Which of the following is/are have Persian origin/influence?**

1. Kharoshthi script
2. Sigloi coins
3. Asoka's Bell-shaped capitals

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The 200 years of Indo-Persian contact resulted in not only political influence, but also socioeconomic acculturation.

- Along with providing impetus to Indo-Persian trade and commerce, it resulted in forging cultural ties.
- The introduction of the Kharoshthi script, which was derived from Aramaic (the official script of the Persian empire, written right to left like Arabic) in north-western India is a fine example highlighting the Persian impact.
- Some of the Ashokan inscriptions in north-western India are written in this script. Persian sigloi-type coins were copied in India.
- It is possible that the rock inscriptions used by Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE was inspired by the Persian King Darius.
- The monuments of Ashoka's time, especially the bell-shaped capitals and the preamble of Ashoka's edicts, have a lot of Iranian influence.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.6) The term “Pura” of Mahajanapada was associated with?**

- a) Fortified Town
- b) Market Town
- c) Capital City
- d) Buddhist Village

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** During c.600-300 BCE, there was significant expansion in the number and size of village settlements, towns, and corresponding population growth in the Ganga Valley.

- Numerous villages and towns are mentioned in the Pali and Sanskrit texts. There was a great degree of differentiation in case of towns.
- Pura or nagara meant a fortified town or city; nigama referred to a market town which was at an intermediate level between grama and nagara; rajdhani referred to capital city; nagarka was a small town and mahanagara was a big city.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.7) Which of the following product/s was/were exported during Mahajanapada period?**

- 1. Ivory products
- 2. Textile goods
- 3. Pots

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Generally crafts were hereditary, and the son used to learn his family trade from his father.

Craft products like textile goods, ivory products, pots, etc., were exported over long distances by merchants.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.8) The “port city of Tamralipti” is associated with which of the following state?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Odisha
- d) West Bengal

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Tamralipta or Tamralipti was a port city and capital of Suhma Kingdom in ancient India, located on the coast of the Bay of Bengal.

The Tamruk town in present-day Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, is generally identified as the site of Tamralipti.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.9) The terms “Kammikas and Shaulkikas” were associated with which of the following?**

- a) Customs officials
- b) Gold smiths
- c) Weavers
- d) Priests

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Custom officials (Kammikas) and Toll officials (Shaulkika/Shulkadhyaksha) levied taxes on merchandise, and special royal officials called Rajabhatas were deputed to safeguard the lives and property of travelers.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Manas Tiger Reserve”:**

- 1. It spans across four districts of Assam.
- 2. It has a unique distinction of being a Natural World Heritage Site, a Tiger Reserve, an Elephant Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and an Important Bird Area.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Manas Tiger Reserve (MTR) spans across the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Buxa and Udalguri in north-west Assam.

- To the north, it is separated from the Royal Manas National Park of Bhutan by the River Manas and its tributaries- Beki and Hakua; while to the west, it is separated from the Buxa Tiger Reserve of West Bengal by the River Sankosh.
- The area has a unique distinction of being a Natural World Heritage Site, a Tiger Reserve, an Elephant Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and an Important Bird Area.
- Evolutionarily, it is the entry point of tigers into India. It forms part of a large tiger conservation landscape which includes Buxa-Nameri-Pakke-Namdapha tiger reserves and protected areas of Bhutan and Myanmar.

**Source:** <https://ntca.gov.in/assets/uploads/briefnote/manas.pdf>

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## *Buddhism, Jainism & Ajivikas*

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**Q.1) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

<b>Religious personality</b>	<b>Region</b>
1. Confucius	: China
2. Zoroaster	: Egypt
3. Parmenides	: Iran

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Sixth century BCE was a period of great religious upheaval. Great teachers like Confucius in China, Zoroaster in Iran, and Parmenides in Greece questioned the established socio-religious norms and focused more on ethical and moral values.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.2) The Buddhism & Jainism focused on which of the following?**

- 1. Non violence
- 2. Frugality
- 3. Charity

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** India witnessed the growth of two great alternative religions: Buddhism and Jainism.

These religions emphasized that true happiness does not lie in material prosperity or performance of rituals, but in nonviolence, charity, frugality, and good social conduct.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya

**Q.3) Which of the following was/were the cause/s of Intellectual Awakening in 6<sup>th</sup> century BC?**

1. The emergence of territorial identities.
2. The Vedic religion was not fully organized.
3. The grievance of Kshatriyas.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Sixth century BCE was a period of intense intellectual ferment. There are several reasons for the emergence of this ferment.

- State formation and the rigidity of the Vedic religion constrained the liberty of thought and action.
- The emergence of territorial identities accelerated the process of sociopolitical and economic changes.
- The elite class, disillusioned with the system in place, began to move in protest towards the heterodox religions blossoming in Magadha or middle Ganges plains.
- As the Vedic religion was not fully organised, its reach did not permeate into the society and hence people did not find it difficult to follow the newly emerging religious sects.
- With urbanisation and expansion of trade, new classes of merchants and bankers such as sethis sought higher social status appropriate to their economic status.
- The grievance of Kshatriyas was that they were denied a staged life of ashramas, a privilege permitted only to Brahmins in the Vedic texts.

**Source:** Poonam Dahiya & Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.4) Which of the following was/were the follower/s of the Ajivikas sect?**

1. Makkhali Gosala
2. Nanda Vaccha
3. Kisa Samkicca

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Ajivikas are believed to have evolved from one of the many ascetic groups of the times.

- According to Buddhist records, Nanda Vaccha was considered the founder of the Ajivika sect.
- He was succeeded by Kisa Samkicca, followed by Makkhali Gosala, who was the third and the greatest of the Ajivikas.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT



**Q.5) Which religion has the “niyati or fate” as the basic principle?**

- a) Jainism
- b) Buddhism
- c) Zoroastrianism
- d) Ajivikas

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Ajivikas were naked ascetics. The basic principle of the Ajivikas was niyati or fate: they believed that nothing in this world could be changed as everything was predetermined.

- Everyone has to pass through a series of transmigrations to put an end to pain.
- According to Ajivikas, there were six inevitable factors in life, viz. gain and loss, joy and sorrow, and life and death.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.6) Which of the following was/were the follower/s of the “Lokayata school of thought”?**

- 1. Ajita Kesakambalin
- 2. Carvaka
- 3. Purana Kassapa

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The term “lokyata” signifies materialist thought. Indian materialism has also been named Carvaka after one of the two founders of the school.

- Carvaka and Ajita Kesakambalin are said to have established Indian materialism as a formal philosophical system.
- Carvakas developed the concept of skepticism and believed in the pursuit of knowledge through experience. They questioned the authority of Vedas.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.7) The “Bhagavatisutra” text is related to which of the following?**

- a) Jainism
- b) Buddhism
- c) Lokayata
- d) Ajivikas

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** There was intense rivalry among the various heterodox sects. This is evident from the various religious accounts of the period.

- Buddhist and Jaina texts not only mention other heterodox sects but also belittle them.
- For example, Bhagavatisutra, a Jaina text, provides a poor account of Makkhali Gosala.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.8) Who among the following was called as “Nirgranthas”?**

- a) Jains
- b) Buddhists
- c) Ajivikas
- d) Materiliasts

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Among the various sects, the sect led by Vardhamana Mahavira (referred to as Nigantha Nataputta by Buddhist texts) bloomed into a religion called Jainism.

It was earlier known as Nirgranthas (free from bonds). Mahavira was known as Jina (conqueror) of the soul and hence his sect came to be known as Jainism.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.9) Who among the following was the founder of the Jaina Sect?**

- a) Risabha
- b) Ajitanatha
- c) Aristanemi
- d) Vardhamana Mahavira

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** According to Jaina tradition, Risabha was the founder of the sect. He is considered the first Tirthankara.

Yajur Veda mentions three of the Tirthankaras, viz., Risabha, Ajitanatha and Aristanemi. Mahavira organized his members into monastic and lay followers.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.10) The “Sthaviravadins” was related to which of the following sect?**

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Ajivikas
- d) Lokayatas

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Second Buddhist Council met at Vaishali a century after Buddha’s death. The Buddhist Order split into two later.

One was called the Sthaviravadins or ‘Believers in the Teachings of the Elders’ and the other known as Mahasanghikas or ‘Members of the Great Community’.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

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## *Revision*

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**Q.1) The famous Paleolithic site “Hunsgi valley” is located at?**

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil Nadu

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Lower Paleolithic tools are found in most parts of India, except in a few regions of the Ganges valley, southern Tamil Nadu and in the hilly areas of the Western Ghats. Athirampakkam, Pallavaram and Gudiyam near Chennai, Hunsgi valley and Isampur in Karnataka, and Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh are some important Paleolithic sites where the Acheulian tools are found.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.2) Which of the following was/were the main features of the Indian Middle Paleolithic period?**

- 1. Tools are smaller.
- 2. Decrease in the use of hand axes in relation to other tools.
- 3. Use of core preparation techniques in stone tool production.

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** The Middle Paleolithic people occupied open-air, cave and rock shelter sites. They were hunter-gatherers. The main features of the Indian Middle Paleolithic period include the following:

- The tools became smaller.
- The decrease in the use of hand axes in relation to other tools.
- Use of core preparation techniques in stone tool production.
- Use of chert, jasper, chalcedony and quartz as raw materials.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Mesolithic period”:**

1. It occurs in all eco-zones from the coasts to the hills.
2. Hunting wild animals and gathering plant food and fishing were people’s main occupation during this period.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** Mesolithic sites are found in most parts of India. They occur in all eco-zones from the coasts to the hills: sand dunes, rock shelters, deltaic regions, lake areas, forested territories, hilly and mountainous areas, rocky terrains and coastal environments.

Hunting wild animals and gathering plant food and fishing were people’s main occupation during this age. Agriculture was not practiced in the early stages.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.4) The famous Neolithic site “Burzahom” is located at?**

- a) Kashmir
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Gujarat
- d) Himachal Pradesh

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** Neolithic culture in Kashmir region was contemporary to the Harappan civilisation. Burzahom, an important site of this culture, provides evidence for the Megalithic and Early Historic Periods.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.5) Which of the following was/were the feature/s of town planning in Harappan period?**

1. Fortification
2. Drainage system
3. A civic authority

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Harappa (Punjab, Pakistan), Mohenjo-Daro (Sindh, Pakistan), Dholavira, Lothal, and Surkotada (Gujarat, India), Kalibangan and Banawali (Rajasthan, India), and Rakhigarhi (Haryana, India) are the major cities in the Harappan period.

- Fortification, wellplanned streets and lanes and drainages are noticed in the Harappan towns.
- A civic authority perhaps controlled the planning of the towns.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.6) The famous “Great Bath” is related to which of the following site?**

- a) Harappa
- b) Mohenjo-Daro
- c) Rakhigarhi
- d) Lothal

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** The site of Mohenjo-Daro had a planned town, built on a platform. It has two distinct areas. One is identified as a citadel and another as the lower town.

- The houses had bathrooms paved with burnt bricks and proper drains. Some houses had stairs indicating the existence of an upper floor.
- The houses had multiple rooms. Many of the houses had a central courtyard with rooms all around.
- The Great Bath is a tank situated within a courtyard. The corridors were present on all four sides and stairs are seen on the northern and southern sides.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.7) Which of the following is/are crop/s grown by Harappans?**

- 1. Wheat
- 2. Chickpea
- 3. Lentil

**Choose the correct answer from below given codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**ANS: D**

**Explanation:** Agriculture was an important source of subsistence for the Harappans. The Harappans cultivated diverse crops such as wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, sesame and various millets.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.8) The term “Zebu” of Harappan civilization was related to?**

- a) Agriculture
- b) Cattle
- c) Town Planning
- d) Religion

**ANS: B**

**Explanation:** Pastoralism was also practised by the Harappans. They domesticated sheep, goat and fowl.

- They had knowledge of various other animals including buffalo, pig and elephant.
- But horse was not known to them. The Harappan cattle are called Zebu. It is a large breed, often represented in their seals.
- They also ate fish and birds. Evidence of boar, deer and gharial has been found at the Harappan sites.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding “Vedas”:**

1. The language of the Vedas is described as Vedic Sanskrit.
2. The Vedic texts were memorized and orally transmitted by Brahmins from generation to generation.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANS: C**

**Explanation:** The Vedas (Vid = to know, Vidya) are one of the earliest known texts to have been composed in India.

- The language of the Vedas is described as Vedic Sanskrit. The Vedas are four: Rig is the oldest and the others being Yajur, Sama and Atharva.
- The Vedic texts were memorized and orally transmitted by Brahmins from generation to generation.
- They were written down in the later period, after the introduction of writing.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT

**Q.10) The “Zend Avesta” is related to which of the following?**

- a) Zoroastrianism
- b) Jainism
- c) Buddhism
- d) Hinduism

**ANS: A**

**Explanation:** The Zend Avesta is a Persian/Iranian text of Zoroastrianism. This book speaks about the lands and gods of the people speaking the Indo-Iranian languages.

It has references to the regions of northern and north-western parts of India. It has terms which show linguistic similarity with the Vedas.

**Source:** Tamil Nadu NCERT