

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Vedic Texts

1. With reference to the structural division of Vedic literature, consider the following statements:

1. The Samhitas consist primarily of collections of hymns, mantras, and prayers.
2. The Brahmanas explain the social and ritualistic application of Vedic sacrifices.
3. The Upanishads focus on ritualistic doctrines.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Correct Answer:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Samhitas are the primary core texts of each Veda, containing collections of mantras, prayers, and hymns.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Brahmanas are prose commentaries attached to the Samhitas that explain the ritualistic formulas, performance details, and symbolic meanings of sacrifices (Yajnas).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Upanishads represent the Jnana-Khanda (knowledge section) of the Vedas, shifting the focus away from ritualistic mechanics to philosophical discourse on the ultimate reality (Brahman), individual self (Atman), and liberation (Moksha).

2. Consider the following information:

	Brahmana Text	Associated Veda	Significance
1.	Aitareya Brahmana	Rigveda	Details royal coronation ceremonies
2.	Shatapatha Brahmana	Yajurveda	Elaborates on sacrificial altar construction and agriculture
3.	Panchavimsha Brahmana	Samaveda	Details rituals associated with Soma sacrifices
4.	Taittiriya Brahmana	Atharvaveda	Contains philosophical discourses on astronomical sacrifices

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (b)

Correct Answer:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The Aitareya Brahmana belongs to the Rigveda and describes solemn rituals, including the Mahabhisheka (royal coronation).
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** The Shatapatha Brahmana belongs to the Sukla Yajurveda and is a comprehensive text detailing altar geometry, agriculture, and rituals like the Ashvamedha.

- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** The Panchavimsha Brahmana (Tandya Mahabrahmana) is attached to the Samaveda and deals with musical chants for Soma sacrifices.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** The Taittiriya Brahmana belongs to the Krishna Yajurveda. The principal Brahmana of the Atharvaveda is the Gopatha Brahmana.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the Upanishadic literature is/are correct?

1. They mark a transition from ritualistic action to spiritual knowledge.
2. The phrase Satyameva Jayate is taken from the Chandogya Upanishad.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Correct Answer:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Upanishads critique blind ritual performance and emphasize knowledge of the self (Atman) and cosmic consciousness (Brahman).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The national motto Satyameva Jayate (Truth Alone Triumphs) is inscribed on the National Emblem of India and is extracted from the Mundaka Upanishad.

4. Consider the following pairs of Upavedas and their traditional subjects:

	Upaveda	Traditional Subject	Associated Veda
1.	Ayurveda	Medicinal Science and Health	Rigveda
2.	Dhanurveda	Archery and Warfare	Yajurveda
3.	Gandharvaveda	Music, Dance, and Performing Arts	Samaveda
4.	Shilpaveda	Architecture and Sculptural Arts	Atharvaveda

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (d)

Correct Answer:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Ayurveda (science of life/medicine) is traditionally classified as an Upaveda of the Rigveda (or alternatively Atharvaveda).
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Dhanurveda deals with military science, archery, and martial strategies and is affiliated with the Yajurveda.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Gandharvaveda covers vocal and instrumental music along with dance and aesthetics, derived from the musical Samaveda.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Shilpaveda deals with architecture, engineering, and craftsmanship, affiliated with the Atharvaveda.

5. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the Vedangas?

1. Shiksha deals with phonetics and proper pronunciation of Vedic mantras.
2. Nirukta focuses on etymology and the origin of Vedic words.
3. Kalpa deals with grammar and linguistic rules of Vedic Sanskrit.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Correct Answer:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Shiksha is the Vedanga dedicated to phonetics, accentuation, and proper vocalization of Vedic texts.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nirukta (composed by Yaska) is the science of etymology, explaining difficult and obscure words found in the Vedas.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kalpa deals with ritual procedures, duties, and sacrificial rules. Grammar (Vyakarana) is the Vedanga that deals with linguistic structure and grammar rules (exemplified by Panini's Astadhyayi).

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Kalpa Sutra texts:

1. The Shulva Sutras contain rules for geometric construction of sacrificial altars.
2. The Grihya Sutras outline domestic rites of passage such as birth, marriage, and funeral ceremonies.
3. The Dharma Sutras deal primarily with social duties, ethical conduct, and legal responsibilities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Correct Answer:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Shulva Sutras are early mathematical and geometrical treatises specifying precise measurements and shapes for constructing Vedic fire altars (Vedi).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Grihya Sutras detail household rituals, domestic sacrifices (Panchamahayajna), and rites of passage (Samskaras).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Dharma Sutras outline social laws, duties of various Varnas and Ashramas, judicial practices, and royal responsibilities, serving as precursors to the Dharmashastras.

7. With reference to ancient Indian legal texts and epics, consider the following statements:

1. Dharmashastras such as Manusmriti and Yajnavalkya Smriti are classified as Shruti literature.
2. The Bhagavad Gita forms a section of the Bhishma Parva of the Mahabharata.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Correct Answer:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Smritis (law codes like Manusmriti and Yajnavalkya Smriti) are classified as Smriti (that which is remembered) literature, which are human compositions. Shruti ("that which is heard") refers strictly to the core canonical texts: Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and Upanishads.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Bhagavad Gita is an 18-chapter philosophical text embedded within the Bhishma Parva (Book 6) of the epic Mahabharata.

8. Consider the following information:

	Cultural Source	Key Feature	Historical Link
1.	Puranas	Describes royal genealogies and cosmic creation	Ancient Indian historical traditions
2.	Painted Grey Ware (PGW)	Fine grey pottery with black painted designs	Associated with Later Vedic sites
3.	Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP)	Reddish-ochre slipped pottery	Linked with early Bronze Age & Gangetic Copper Hoards

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Correct Answer:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** The Puranas (18 major Mahapuranas) outline five main subjects (Pancha Lakshana), including primary creation (Sarga), secondary creation (Pratisarga), cosmic cycles (Manvantara), and genealogies of kings (Vamshanucharita).
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Painted Grey Ware (PGW) culture () in Haryana, Punjab, and the upper Ganga-Yamuna Doab is archaeologically correlated with Later Vedic settlements.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) culture () in the Gangetic plains is closely linked to Copper Hoard artifacts and early metalworking.

9. Which of the following archaeological findings provide material evidence for the cultural practices of the Vedic period?

1. Gangetic Copper Hoards indicating early metal tool production.
2. Clay-lined fire altars (Havan Kunds) found at sites like Kalibangan and Lothal.
3. Iron implements excavated in the Gangetic basin used for forest clearing and agriculture.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Correct Answer:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Copper Hoards (harpoons, swords, anthropomorphic figures) discovered across the Ganga Doab reflect regional metalworking technology overlapping with early Vedic horizons.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The discovery of rectangular fire altars containing ash and pottery at Harappan sites like Kalibangan and Lothal suggests early ritualistic fire practices resembling later Vedic Homa/Yajna rituals.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Iron objects found at sites like Atranjikhhera and Hastinapur (onwards) confirm the adoption of iron metallurgy (Krishna Ayas) for agricultural tools and weapons during the Later Vedic age.

10. Which one of the following ancient texts constitutes the primary literary source for the Early Vedic Period, distinct from those that define the Later Vedic Period?

- (a) Rigveda Samhita
- (b) Samaveda Samhita
- (c) Shatapatha Brahmana
- (d) Chandogya Upanishad

Correct Answer: (a)

Correct Answer:

- **Option (a) is correct:** The Rigveda Samhita (specifically Mandalas 2 to 7) is the only literary source representing the Early Vedic Period, capturing a semi-nomadic, pastoral society focused on the Sapta-Sindhu region.
- **Options (b), (c), and (d) are incorrect:** The Samaveda, Yajurveda, Atharvaveda, along with their respective Brahmanas, Aranyakas, and Upanishads, were compiled during the Later Vedic Period, reflecting a settled agricultural lifestyle, iron technology, and expansion into the Gangetic Doab.

Vedic Systems

1. With reference to the geographical knowledge of the Early Vedic Aryans, consider the following statements:

1. Sapta-Sindhu region included the rivers Vitasta, Askani, Purushni, Vipasa, Satudri, Sindh, and Saraswati.
2. Rigvedic hymns explicitly mention peaks of the Himalayas, such as Muzavand and Silament.
3. Samudra in the Rigveda referred exclusively to the open salty oceans on the eastern and western coasts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Early Aryans settled in the Sapta-Sindhu (land of seven rivers), comprising the Indus (Sindh), Saraswati, and the five tributaries of Punjab: Vitasta (Jhelum), Askani (Chenab), Purushni (Ravi), Vipasa (Beas), and Satudri (Sutlej).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rigveda contains references to Himalayan peaks such as Mujaant (source of Soma) and Saimant (Suleman range).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** In the Rigveda, the word Samudra primarily denoted a large collection of water, a confluence of rivers, or a broad expanse of water, rather than the open ocean in the modern geographic sense.

2. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the economic life of the Early Vedic Period?

1. Cattle rearing was the primary occupation, and wealth was measured in terms of cows.
2. Terms like Gomat and Duhitri derived their linguistic origins from the word for cow.
3. Landed property formed the chief source of private wealth and was frequently gifted to priests.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The Early Vedic economy was predominantly pastoral. Cows (Go) were the primary measure of wealth. Vocabulary reflected this: a wealthy man was Gomat, a daughter was Duhitri ("one who milks the cow"), and tribal conflicts were termed Gavishti (search for cows).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** There was no private ownership of land during the Rigvedic phase. Priests received cows, horses, and gold ornaments as ritual fees (dakshina), but never land gifts.

3. With reference to trade and economic practices in the Early Vedic phase, consider the following statements:

1. Yava was the primary cultivated food grain mentioned in the Rigveda.
2. Cows served as a primary unit of value and medium of exchange in the barter system.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Agriculture was a secondary occupation used to supplement pastoralism, and Yava (barley) was the principal cultivated grain.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Early Vedic economy operated on a barter system where cows, alongside gold ornaments like Niska, functioned as recognized units of value and exchange.

4. Which of the following characterizes the settlement pattern and rural administration in the Early Vedic Age?

1. Rigvedic society was predominantly rural, with an absence of planned urban cities.
2. The Gramani acted as the village headman, exercising both civil and military duties.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Unlike the preceding Indus Valley Civilization, the Early Vedic people lived in fortified villages or pastoral settlements (Grama) and lacked planned urban centers.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Gramani was the head of the village unit (Grama), leading the village militia in times of war and managing civil administrative functions.

5. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the political structure of the Early Vedic Aryans?

1. The Jana was the highest social and political unit headed by the Rajan.
2. Popular tribal assemblies like the Sabha, Samiti, and Vidatha limited the authority of the chief.
3. The Rajan maintained an absolute monarchy supported by a standing army.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The chief political unit was the Jana (tribe), protected by the Rajan (tribal chief). His power was not absolute and was checked by tribal councils like the Sabha (elderly council), Samiti (general assembly), and Vidatha (tribal gathering).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Rajan was not an absolute monarch and did not possess a standing army or a formal state apparatus.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the office of the Rajan in the Rigvedic Period:

1. The office of the chief was largely elective, and strict primogeniture was not the established rule.
2. Certain Vedic tribes were ruled directly by tribal councils without a hereditary king.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** While kingship often stayed within prominent families, the post of Rajan was elected or approved by the tribal assembly (Samiti), and primogeniture (the eldest son automatically inheriting the throne) was not the norm.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Oligarchic or non-monarchical tribal structures existed where power rested directly with the clan council rather than a single hereditary chief.

7. Consider the following information regarding Early Vedic administration:

	Administrative Element	Characteristic
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1.	Sena	Non-standing army; mobilized from able-bodied tribesmen during war
2.	Takshan & Rathakara	Craftsmen responsible for manufacturing war chariots
3.	Bali	Mandatory offering paid by people to the chief, not a compulsory tax

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correct:** There was no permanent standing army. During warfare, military units (Vrata, Gana, Grama) were formed by mobilizing able-bodied male members of the tribe.
- **Row 2 is correct:** Carpenters (Takshan) and chariot-makers (Rathakara) enjoyed high social status due to the importance of spoked-wheel chariots in warfare.
- **Row 3 is incorrect:** Bali was a voluntary tribute or offering made by the clansmen to the Rajan for protection; no regular or compulsory revenue collection mechanism existed.

8. With reference to the social organization of the Early Vedic society, consider the following statements:

1. The Kula was the basic unit of society and was patriarchal in structure.
2. Monogamy was the general norm, though polygamy was practiced among chiefs and nobles.
3. Women were married only after attaining maturity and possessed freedom in selecting their spouses.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Society was organized along patriarchal lines with the eldest male (Kulapa or Grihapati) heading the joint family (Kula).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Monogamy was the standard practice among the common people, though polygamy existed among royalty and the chieftain class.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Child marriage was absent in the Early Vedic phase; girls married after reaching maturity and had a say in choosing their husbands (such as through Swayamvara).

9. Consider the following hierarchy of social and political units in the Early Vedic Period:

1. Kula
2. Grama
3. Vis
4. Jana

Which of the following represents the correct ascending order of these organizational units?

- (a) 1 — 2 — 3 — 4
- (b) 2 — 1 — 3 — 4
- (c) 1 — 3 — 2 — 4
- (d) 3 — 1 — 2 — 4

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct:** The basic social unit was the family or Kula (headed by Kulapa). A group of related families formed a village or Grama (headed by Gramani). A cluster of villages formed a clan or Vis (headed by Vispati). Multiple clans aggregated into the largest political unit, the tribe or Jana (headed by Rajan). Membership across these units was strictly based on birth and kinship ties rather than territorial residence.

10. With reference to social differentiation in the Early Vedic phase, consider the following statements:

1. Term Varna was originally used in the Rigveda to denote color, distinguishing the Aryas from the indigenous Dasas/Dasyus.
2. Early Vedic society was rigidly divided into hereditary occupational castes with strict prohibitions on inter-dining.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Initially, Varna referred to color or complexion, used primarily to differentiate the incoming Arya Varna from the indigenous Dasa Varna.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Early Vedic society was flexible and not rigidly stratified into hereditary castes. Occupation was not birth-based, and there were no rigid taboos on inter-dining or inter-marriage during the Early Vedic Period (hereditary Varna division crystallized later).

Vedic Social Hierarchy, Religious Practices, Terminology

1. Which of the following statements regarding the features of Early Vedic social hierarchy are correct?

1. Early Vedic society was divided into four rigid, birth-based Varnas from the very beginning of the Rigvedic period.
2. Term Shudra appears for the first time in the 10th Mandala (Purusha Sukta) of the Rigveda.
3. Women enjoyed social rights, including participation in tribal assemblies such as Samiti and Vidatha.
4. Unequal distribution of war booty contributed to emerging social inequalities towards the close of the period.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Early Vedic society was largely flexible and divided into three broad functional groups (Kshatriya, Brahmana, Vis). It was not rigidly birth-based.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The term Shudra appears only once in the Rigveda, in the Purusha Sukta of the 10th Mandala, which is considered a late addition.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Women in the Early Vedic Age enjoyed a respectable status; child marriage was absent, and women participated in popular assemblies like the Samiti and Vidatha.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Inequality grew towards the later phase because tribal chiefs (Rajan) and priests (Purohita) retained a disproportionate share of war booty (Bali and Samgrahana).

2. Which of the following statements regarding the features of Early Vedic religion are correct?

1. Rigvedic gods were largely personifications of natural forces like rain, storm, fire, and thunder.
2. Goddesses like Ushas, Sarasvati, and Prithvi occupied the primary and dominant positions in the Rigvedic pantheon.
3. Indra was the most prominent deity, with the highest number of hymns (about 250) dedicated to him.
4. Varuna was revered as the guardian of Rita (the cosmic and moral order).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Early Vedic religion was naturalistic polytheism, where natural forces were anthropomorphized into deities.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Female deities like Ushas, Aditi, Prithvi, and Sarasvati existed, but they held secondary or subordinate positions in a male-dominated pantheon.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Indra (Puran-dara/Rain and War god) is invoked in roughly 250 hymns, making him the chief deity of the Rigveda.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Varuna maintained the physical and cosmic law termed Rita.

3. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the religious worship and rituals of the Early Vedic Period?

1. Worship was centered on Yajnas accompanied by the recitation of hymns to gain material prosperity, cattle, and sons.
2. Sacrificial rituals were performed inside monumental stone temples containing sculpted idols of deities.
3. Prayers and sacrifices were directed toward personal spiritual salvation rather than worldly gains.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The primary purpose of Early Vedic worship was utilitarian and material (Prajā, Pashu, Dhana, Annakam).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Early Vedic religion was aniconic and non-temple based. Sacrifices were conducted in open altars (Vedi).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Spiritual liberation (Moksha) was not a central theme of the Early Vedic phase; it became prominent later in the Upanishadic age.

4. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the practice of animal sacrifice in the pastoral economy of the Early Vedic phase?

1. Animal sacrifice in pastoral settings provided a means to cull non-productive animals that posed an economic burden.
2. The economic rationale for large-scale animal sacrifice diminished as society shifted from pastoralism to settled iron-plough agriculture.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In a pastoral nomadic setup without agricultural surplus, maintaining non-productive cattle was costly, making ritual sacrifice of select animals economically feasible.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** When the economy transitioned to settled agriculture, cattle became critical draught animals for ploughing, leading to opposition against indiscriminate cattle slaughter (a core driver of later heterodox movements like Jainism and Buddhism).

5. Consider the following information regarding Early Vedic terminology:

	Term	Description
1.	Gavishti	Search or war for cattle
2.	Gojit	Winner of cows; honorific for a hero
3.	Govikartana	Official keeper of forests and hunts
4.	Sthapati	Master builder or chief architect

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Conflicts between tribes over cattle were termed Gavishti ("desire/search for cows").

- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Gojit ("conqueror of cows") was a title of praise for brave warriors.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Govikartana was the forest/huntsman chief involved in royal affairs.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Sthapati denotes a chief builder or administrator of border territories.

6. Consider the following information regarding Vedic socio-economic terms:

	Term	Description
1.	Godhuli	Measurement of distance based on cattle movement
2.	Duhitri	Daughter; literally "one who milks the cow"
3.	Sabhavati	Woman who attends and participates in the Sabha
4.	Sangrihitri	Official responsible for collecting mandatory state taxes in Early Vedic Age

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** Godhuli referred to the measurement of time (dusk/evening when cattle returned), whereas Gavyuti was the measurement of distance.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Duhitri stems directly from pastoral life, meaning daughter or milker of cows.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Women participating in tribal assemblies were referred to as Sabhavati.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** Sangrihitri (treasurer/tax collector) emerged in the Later Vedic Period, not the Early Vedic Age (where tax collection was absent and offerings were voluntary Bali).

7. Consider the following information regarding ancient administrative functionaries:

	Functionary	Assigned Role
1.	Takshan	Carpenter skilled in woodcraft and chariot making
2.	Bhagadugha	Official collector of taxes and royal shares
3.	Jivagribha	Police official tasked with apprehending criminals
4.	Palagala	Court messenger or courier

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
 (b) 2 and 4 only
 (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Takshan was the village carpenter, vital for crafting agricultural tools and chariots.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Bhagadugha was the tax collector who gathered the king's share (Bhaga) during the Later Vedic state setup.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Jivagribha (along with Ugra) performed law enforcement/police duties.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Palagala served as the king's messenger or courier.

8. Consider the following information regarding administrative and court officials:

	Functionary	Assigned Role
1.	Madhyamasi	Mediator appointed to settle civil disputes
2.	Kshata	Spy tasked with gathering intelligence
3.	Akshavapa	Accountant and superintendent of gambling/dice games
4.	Spasa	Gatekeeper or keeper of the royal household

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
 (b) 3 and 4 only
 (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is correctly matched:** Madhyamasi acted as an arbitrator or mediator in local disputes.
- **Row 2 is incorrectly matched:** Kshata managed palace security and royal household affairs.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** Akshavapa maintained administrative accounts and oversaw gambling games.
- **Row 4 is incorrectly matched:** Spasa served as covert intelligence agents or spies for the Rajan.

9. Consider the following information regarding Vedic rituals and social customs:

	Ritual	Characteristic
1.	Suta	Sacrifice to establish territorial sovereignty via a free-roaming horse
2.	Goghna	Honored guest for whom a cow was slaughtered/served
3.	Ashvamedha Yajna	Royal charioteer and court bard
4.	Vajapeya Yajna	Drink of strength ritual featuring a chariot race to boost royal prestige

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
 (b) 2 and 4 only

- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** The Suta was the charioteer and bard who recorded royal genealogies.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Goghna ("one for whom a cow is slain") was an epithet used for an esteemed guest.
- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** The Ashvamedha (horse sacrifice) asserted imperial sovereignty over territories traversed by the sacrificial horse.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** The Vajapeya (chariot race sacrifice) was performed to rejuvenate the king's vitality and demonstrate supremacy over clan members.

10. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the royal rituals and social customs of the Vedic Period?

1. The Rajasuya Yajna was a consecration ceremony designed to confer divine legitimacy and supreme authority upon the ruler.
2. The custom of Niyoga permitted a childless widow to cohabit with her deceased husband's brother to produce an heir.

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Rajasuya was the royal consecration sacrifice that legitimized the monarch's supreme authority through ritual rebirth.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Niyoga was an accepted socio-legal practice where a widow without offspring was allowed to unite with her brother-in-law (Devar) strictly for lineage continuation.

Later Vedic Age

1. Which of the following statements regarding the features of the Later Vedic economy and urbanization are correct?

1. Agricultural expansion led to a population surge and the growth of proto-urban settlements like Hastinapur and Kaushambi.
 2. Standardized metallic currency system was fully established and regulated by a central authority.
 3. Incipient metallic units like Krishnala, Satamana, and Nishka made their appearance during this period.
 4. Nishka replaced cows as a recognized unit of value in economic transactions.
- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Agricultural expansion generated surpluses that sustained larger, permanent settlements like Hastinapur and Kaushambi, which began acquiring rudimentary urban characteristics.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** There was no regular or standardized system of official coinage regulated by a central authority during the Later Vedic Period; barter remained widespread.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Weighted metallic units or bullion pieces such as Krishnala, Satamana, and Nishka appeared as transitional forms toward currency.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** In economic transactions, Nishka increasingly replaced cows as a standard unit of value.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to political changes in the Later Vedic Age is/are correct?

1. Territorial identity replaced clan-based tribal identity.
2. Popular tribal assemblies like the Sabha and Samiti gained absolute authority over the king.
3. Brahmanical rituals and grand sacrifices were utilized to legitimize the concept of divine kingship.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Settled agriculture tied clans to specific regions, leading to the shift from mobile tribal units (Jana) to fixed territorial entities (Janapadas).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The power of popular assemblies like the Sabha and Samiti declined significantly, while the authority of the monarch grew stronger and more autocratic.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Kingship became increasingly hereditary, and royal authority was sacralized through grand sacrifices (Yajnas) performed by Brahmana priests.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to monarchical governance and revenue in the Later Vedic Age is/are correct?

1. A permanent standing army maintained directly by state treasury funds established.
2. The king and his administrative staff subsisted on regular taxes such as Bhaga and Shulka.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The king did not possess a professional standing army maintained year-round; the royal militia was still mobilized from local tribal units during times of war.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Taxation became structured and compulsory. Revenue included Bhaga (agricultural tax, usually of produce), Shulka (trade duties), and Bali (which converted from a voluntary gift into a mandatory tribute).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to royal rituals in the Later Vedic Period is/are correct?

1. Ashvamedha Yajna involved releasing a consecrated horse to roam freely, asserting uncontested territorial sovereignty.
2. In the Rajasuya Yajna, the king was anointed by a priest, a Kshatriya, and a Vaishya to legitimize his rule across social orders.
3. Vajapeya Yajna featured a ritualistic chariot race in which the king was destined to win to restore his vitality and prestige.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Ashvamedha (horse sacrifice) symbolized imperial expansion; any chief who stopped the horse had to fight the king's army.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rajasuya (consecration ritual) involved multi-caste anointing (Abhisheka) to signify broad socio-religious sanction for the king's authority.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Vajapeya (drink of strength) included a staged chariot race where the king's chariot won, affirming his supreme physical prowess and authority.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to social structure in the Later Vedic Age is/are correct?

1. The Gotra system emerged during this period, strictly enforcing the rule of exogamy.
2. Women maintained political representation and continued to attend popular assemblies.
3. Polygamy became increasingly common among the ruling Kshatriya and royal elite.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The institution of Gotra (lineage traced to a common ancestor) appeared for the first time, establishing the practice of Gotra exogamy.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The social status of women degraded in the Later Vedic phase; their access to public political assemblies like the Sabha and Samiti was curtailed.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** While monogamy was standard among commoners, polygamy became widespread among kings, nobles, and wealthy elites.

6. Which of the following statements regarding the features of the Later Vedic Varna system are correct?

1. Society was organized into four distinct Varnas, with Upanayana restricted to the Dwijas.
2. Women of all four Varnas were universally granted the right to undergo the Upanayana ceremony.
3. Artisans like the Rathakaras held high status and were granted the right to wear the sacred thread.

4. The custom of Niyoga (widow remarriage to a brother-in-law) gained absolute theological supremacy and universal adoption.

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The top three Varnas (Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya) were designated as Dwijas ("twice-born") and possessed the exclusive privilege of undergoing the Upanayana ceremony.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Women were increasingly excluded from the Upanayana ceremony and Vedic studies during this phase.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Rathakaras (chariot makers) maintained a respected social standing due to their vital role in military crafts and were entitled to the Upanayana ceremony.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Unlike in the Early Vedic phase where Niyoga was widely accepted, the practice faced growing disapproval and restrictions in Later Vedic social codes.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Later Vedic society is/are correct?

1. Child marriage and Sati were codified and enforced across all sections of society.
2. Female scholars like Gargi and Maitreyi actively participated in advanced philosophical debates.
3. Groups like the Chandala, Nishada, and Shabara emerged on the margins of society, marking the early stages of untouchability.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While isolated textual references to child marriage and widow immolation appear, they were not dominant or universally enforced social practices in the Later Vedic era.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Elite women continued to achieve intellectual distinction; notably, Gargi Vachaknavi challenged the sage Yajnavalkya in a famous debate recorded in the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Occupational specialization and rigid Varna boundaries led to the marginalization of indigenous groups such as the Chandalas, Nishadas, and Shabaras.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Ashrama system in ancient India is/are correct?

1. The four-stage Ashrama scheme (Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, and Sannyasa) was fully established in its complete four-fold form in the Later Vedic Period.
2. Brahmacharya was associated with education and Dharma, while Grihastha focused on the pursuits of Artha and Kama.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Only the first three stages (Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha) were clearly defined in Later Vedic texts (e.g., Chandogya Upanishad). The fourth stage, Sannyasa (complete renunciation), was fully integrated later (as seen in the Jabala Upanishad).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Each Ashrama corresponded to specific life goals (Purusharthas): Brahmacharya focused on learning and Dharma, Grihastha catered to Artha and Kama, while Vanaprastha and Sannyasa targeted Moksha.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to transformations in Vedic religion is/are correct?

1. Deities like Indra and Agni lost their primary and Prajapati emerged as the supreme god.
2. Mode of worship shifted from direct prayer recitations toward elaborate, priest-conducted sacrificial rituals.
3. Later Vedic Period witnessed the establishment of grand stone-built temples and idol worship.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The divine hierarchy shifted: Indra and Agni ceded prominence to Prajapati (the Creator), Rudra (associated with fauna/healing), and Vishnu (the Preserver).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Rituals became increasingly complex, domestic, and public, requiring professional Brahmana priests who received substantial gifts (Dana) and fees (Dakshina).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Structural temples and idol worship did not exist in the Vedic Period; divine symbols were worshipped through open sacrificial altars.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the agrarian economy of the Later Vedic Period is/are correct?

1. Spread of iron facilitated forest clearing and the cultivation of hard Gangetic soils.
2. Shatapatha Brahmana contains textual references to agricultural ploughing rituals.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The discovery of iron (Krishna Ayas or Shyama Ayas) around enabled the creation of iron axes and ploughshares, driving agricultural expansion in the fertile Ganga-Yamuna Doab.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Agriculture became the dominant livelihood, as reflected in the Shatapatha Brahmana, which describes detailed rituals surrounding ploughing (Sirakarma), sowing, harvesting, and threshing of crops like Vrihi (rice) and Godhuma (wheat).

Battle of Ten Kings, Mahajanpadas

1. Which of the following statements regarding the Battle of Ten Kings are correct?

1. Battle was fought on the banks of the River Parushni.
2. Bharatas were led by King Sudas, while the confederation of ten tribes included the Purus.
3. Opposing tribes successfully flooded the Bharata camp, leading to the total defeat of King Sudas.
4. Following the war, the Bharatas and Purus merged to form the Kuru tribe.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The historical conflict took place along the banks of the Parushni River (identified with the modern Ravi River in Punjab).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** King Sudas led the ruling Bharata tribe against a combined alliance of five Vedic (Panchajana) and five non-Vedic tribes, with the Purus playing a leading role in the coalition.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Although the opposing tribes attempted to breach the embankments of the Parushni to flood the Bharatas, King Sudas routed the coalition and emerged victorious; Purukutsa, chief of the Purus, was slain.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** In the aftermath of the war, the victorious Bharatas and the defeated Purus reconciled and merged to form the Kuru tribe, which dominated the Ganga-Yamuna Doab in the Later Vedic phase.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the origin of Janapadas and Mahajanapadas is/are correct?

1. Janapada literally signifies the foothold of a tribe, marking the transition from clan-based identity to territorial statehood.
2. All Mahajanapadas operated under strict hereditary monarchical rule.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Janapada derives from Jana (people/tribe) and Pada (foot/settlement), denoting the permanent territory where a clan settled down to practice agriculture.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Not all Mahajanapadas were monarchies. Several prominent Mahajanapadas, such as the Vajji confederacy (Lichchhavis) and Malla, functioned as oligarchic republics (Gana-Sanghas).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to early Buddhist literary sources is/are correct?

1. Geographical context of the Pali Canon corresponds primarily to the middle Ganga valley.
2. Anguttara Nikaya provides a major textual listing of the sixteen Mahajanapadas.
3. Jataka tales primarily depict the socio-economic and political conditions of the Vedic Age prior to the emergence of iron technology.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The events and locations recorded in the Pali Canon (composed between the 5th and 4th centuries BCE) are situated in the middle Ganga basin.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Anguttara Nikaya (a division of the Sutta Pitaka) contains the list of sixteen great states (Shodasha Mahajanapadas) existing around the time of the Buddha.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Jatakas (stories of the Buddha's previous births) reflect the socio-economic realities of the 6th century BCE and later periods, detailing flourishing trade, urban centers, and monetized transactions—not the pre-iron pastoral Vedic Age.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to ancient Jaina and Brahmanical texts is/are correct?

1. Jaina canonical text Bhagavati Sutra provides a list of sixteen Mahajanapadas that parallels the list in Buddhist texts.
2. Puranas contain genealogical lists of ruling dynasties that assist in reconstructing the political history of the post-Vedic period.
3. Dharmasutras and Grihyasutras belong to the early ritualistic and legal tradition outlining civil laws and social duties.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Jaina text Bhagavati Sutra provides a list of sixteen Mahajanapadas, differing slightly in regional names from the Anguttara Nikaya list but confirming the same territorial structure.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Puranas preserve dynastic lists (Vamshanucharita) of rulers from major Mahajanapada lineages such as the Haryankas, Shishunagas, and Nandas.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Dharmasutras (normative legal texts) and Grihyasutras (domestic ritual manuals) form part of the early legal tradition detailing Varna obligations and personal conduct.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to secular sources of ancient Indian history is/are correct?

1. Ashtadhyayi, provides incidental geographical and economic data on contemporary Janapadas.
2. Greek and Latin accounts written during and after Alexander's invasion offer contemporary eye-witness records.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** While primarily a grammatical work, Panini's Ashtadhyayi serves as a key historical source, mentioning political entities (Janapadas), trade goods, coins, and administrative terms.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Most surviving classical accounts (such as those by Arrian, Strabo, and Plutarch) were compiled centuries after the actual invasion, relying on lost memoirs of Alexander's companions (like Nearchus and Onesicritus). They were not contemporaneous eye-witness documents, though they provided valuable external perspectives that helped fix Indian dates (e.g., identifying Chandragupta Maurya with Sandrokottos).

6. Which of the following statements regarding archaeological sources of the 6th to 3rd century BCE are correct?

1. Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) is a fine deluxe pottery style associated with the rise of urban centers and trade in northern India.
2. Punch-marked coins represent the earliest documented metallic currency system.
3. NBPW pottery was produced using pure iron oxide pigments on unbaked clay.
4. Punch-marked coins were issued by a centralized royal mint under the command of the imperial Mauryan state from their inception.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) culture (– BCE) marks the Second Urbanization phase in the Ganga plain, characterized by walled towns, iron tools, and luxury tablewares.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Silver and copper punch-marked coins (Karshapana or Pana) appeared around the 6th century BCE, marking the beginning of coinage and commercialization.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The name NBPW is misleading; the surface finish was achieved through specialized reduction firing technique in kilns, and specimens are occasionally red, golden, or brown rather than strictly black.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Early punch-marked coins were issued by merchant guilds (Shrenis) and local Janapadas before centralized imperial state minting was organized under the Mauryas.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the eastward shift of the political center from the Kuru-Panchala region to the Middle Ganga Valley is/are correct?

1. Higher annual rainfall in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar facilitated intensive wet-rice cultivation and generated agricultural surpluses.
2. Easy access to rich iron ore deposits in Chota Nagpur region enabled the production of durable agricultural implements and war weaponry.
3. Navigable river systems like the Ganga, Son, and Gandak served as natural communication highways for trade and troop movement.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The middle Ganga valley received heavier rainfall than the semi-arid western region, allowing paddy transplantation (Ropa) that significantly increased crop yields.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Proximity to rich iron ore reserves in the Chota Nagpur plateau provided Magadha with a strategic advantage in manufacturing effective tools and weapons.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Rivers like the Ganga, Son, Gandak, and Ghaghara provided low-cost transport routes for commercial trade and rapid military deployment.

8. With reference to ancient India 6th century consider the following pairs:

	Territorial Entity	Associated River
I.	Asmaka	Godavari
II.	Kamboja	Vipas
III.	Avanti	Mahanadi
IV.	Kosala	Sarayu

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair I is correctly matched:** Asmaka (or Assaka) was located on the banks of the Godavari River in modern Maharashtra/Telangana; it was the southernmost Mahajanapada.
- **Pair II is incorrectly matched:** Kamboja was situated in the trans-Hindukush region (NWFP/Afghanistan around Rajouri/Hazara), not near the Vipas (Beas River in Punjab).

- **Pair III is incorrectly matched:** Avanti (centered around Ujjain/Mahishmati) was situated along the Vetravati (Betwa) and Shipra rivers in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh, not the Mahanadi (Odisha).
- **Pair IV is correctly matched:** Kosala (with its capital Shravasti/Ayodhya) was divided into northern and southern halves by the Sarayu River.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the geo-strategic features of the Magadha Empire is/are correct?

1. Udayin shifted capital from Rajagriha to Pataliputra to command the strategic river confluence of the Ganga and Son.
2. Magadha was the first major state to deploy wild elephants on a large scale.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Udayin (Haryanka dynasty) transferred the capital from the hill-fortress of Rajagriha to Pataliputra (Jaldurga), which occupied a strategic position at the junction of the Ganga and Son rivers.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike the western states that relied primarily on cavalry and chariots, Magadha leveraged its dense eastern forest reserves to capture and train war elephants, giving it a tactical advantage against rival fortifications.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Kingdom of Kosala is/are correct?

1. Prasenajit ruled Kosala as a contemporary of Gautama Buddha.
2. Territory of Kosala incorporated the ancient republic of Kashi as well as Lumbini.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** King Prasenajit (Pasenadi) was a prominent ruler of Kosala and a contemporary of Gautama Buddha; several dialogues in the Pali Suttas document their interactions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kosala annexed the prosperous kingdom of Kashi (Varanasi) and held suzerainty over tribal territories along the Nepalese border, including the Shakya clan's territory of Kapilavastu/Lumbini.

Battle of Ten Kings, Mahajanpadas

1. Which of the following statements with regard to Kasi and Vajji Mahajanapadas is/are correct?

1. Kasi on the banks of the Ganga, was renowned for textile production before being absorbed by Kosala.
2. Vajji functioned as an oligarchic monarchy with its capital at Vaishali.
3. Lord Mahavira, belonging to the Jnatrika clan, was born at Kundagrama near Vaishali, which also hosted the Second Buddhist Council.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kasi was an early dominant power in the Ganga valley famous for cotton textiles and silk. It was later annexed by Kosala.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Vajji was a confederacy of eight clans (including the Lichchhavis and Jnatrikas) governed as a Gana-Sangha (Republic) from Vaishali.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Vardhamana Mahavira was born at Kundagrama near Vaishali to the Jnatrika clan chief. Vaishali was also the venue of the Second Buddhist Council convened under King Kalasoka (Shishunaga dynasty) around 383 BCE.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Vatsa Mahajanapada is/are correct?

1. Its capital, Kaushambi, on Yamuna River, served as a major commercial transit hub connecting northern and southern trade routes.
2. Svapnavasavadattam authored by Harsha and Priyadarshika authored by Bhasa based on life of King Udayana of Vatsa.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kaushambi (near modern Prayagraj) was situated on the Yamuna and served as a flourishing commercial hub along the Uttarapatha trade route.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Bhasa authored Svapnavasavadattam (along with Charudatta and Pratijnayaugandharayana), whereas Emperor Harsha authored Priyadarshika and Ratnavali. Both plays are based on the romantic legends and life of King Udayana of Vatsa

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Anga Mahajanapada is/are correct?

1. Its capital Champa functioned as an international riverine port facilitating maritime trade with Suvarnabhumi.
2. Anga successfully conquered Magadha during the reign of Bimbisara and retained permanent control over the Middle Ganga plain.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Champa (near modern Bhagalpur, Bihar) was a major river port that engaged in long-distance maritime trade across the Bay of Bengal to Suvarnabhumi.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Anga was annexed by Magadha under the expansionist campaign of King Bimbisara (Haryanka dynasty), who placed his son Ajatashatru as governor of Champa.

4. Which of the following statements regarding Malla and Kuru Mahajanapadas are correct?

1. Malla was an oligarchic Gana-Sangha divided into two administrative units centered at Kusinara and Pava.
2. Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana at Kusinara, situated along the Rapti River basin.
3. Kuru was a major monarchical state situated in the lower delta region of the Mahanadi River.
4. Indraprastha and Hastinapura served as primary urban centers and political seats of the Kuru kingdom.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Malla operated as a republican confederacy (Gana-Sangha) with two primary capitals: Kusinara and Pava.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Gautama Buddha passed away (Mahaparinirvana) at Kusinara in the Malla territory.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kuru was located in northern India (covering modern Delhi, Haryana, and Western UP) along the Ganga and Yamuna rivers.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Indraprastha (modern Delhi region) and Hastinapura (near Meerut) were the historic capitals of the Kuru state.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Panchala and Surasena:

1. Panchala was divided by the Ganga River into Northern and Southern Panchala, encompassing Kannauj.
2. Surasena, centered at Mathura along the Yamuna River, was historically associated with the Yadava clan and visited by Gautama Buddha.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Panchala occupied central Uttar Pradesh and was split into Northern Panchala (Ahichhatra, modern Bareilly district) and Southern Panchala (Kampilya, modern Farrukhabad district), containing Kanyakubja (Kannauj).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Surasena was centered at Mathura along the Yamuna, closely tied to the Shoorsena/Yadava lineages, and was frequented by early Buddhist teachers and the Buddha himself.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Gandhara and Avanti is/are correct?

1. Taxila, the capital of Gandhara developed into an international center for higher learning and trade along the Uttarapatha.
2. Avanti was divided into Northern Avanti and Southern Avanti, ruled by King Pradyota who engaged in conflict with Magadha.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Taxila was a world-renowned seat of education (where scholars like Chanakya and Panini taught) and a crucial trading node linking North-West India to Central Asia.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Avanti (in Malwa, MP) had twin capitals at Ujjain and Mahishmati. King Chanda Pradyota was a powerful contemporary of Bimbisara and Buddha, making Avanti a major political rival to Magadha.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Asmaka and Chedi is/are correct?

1. Asmaka, capital at Potana, was situated along the Krishna River basin and was the only Mahajanapada located south of the Vindhya mountains.
2. Chedi kingdom, centered at Shuktimati, was ruled by King Shishupala in epic tradition and lay along the route connecting the Ganga valley to Central India.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Asmaka was located in modern Maharashtra, Telangana along the Godavari and was uniquely the southernmost among the 16 Mahajanapadas (Dakshinapatha region).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Chedi occupied the Eastern Bundelkhand region along the Ken River with its capital at Shuktimati (Sotthivati).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Matsya and Kamboja is/are correct?

1. Matsya was situated in the Jaipur-Alwar-Bharatpur region with its capital at Viratanagara, bordered by the Chambal basin.
2. Kamboja, located in the Pamir-Hindukush region was famous in ancient texts for its superior breed of horses and warrior guilds.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Matsya covered modern eastern Rajasthan around Jaipur and Alwar, centered at Viratanagara (modern Bairat).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kamboja lay in the far north-west (Tajikistan, Badakhshan, Rajouri). It was celebrated in Sanskrit literature for fine horses and operated as an autonomous polity where clans combined agriculture, trade, and military arts (Varta-Sastropajivi Sangha).

9. Which of the following statements regarding the geographical and strategic advantages of Magadha are correct?

1. Rajgir was protected as a natural land fortress by five surrounding hills.
2. Pataliputra functioned as a true water-fortress, guarded by the confluence of the Ganga, Son, Gandak, and Ghaghara rivers.
3. Magadha lacked direct access to major riverine trade routes, forcing its economy to rely on overland pastoral transport.
4. Presence of dense eastern forests provided Magadha with an abundant supply of wild elephants for heavy military deployment.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The old capital Rajagriha (Rajgir) was surrounded by five hills (Giri-vraja), making it naturally fortified against physical invasions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Pataliputra was surrounded on multiple sides by rivers (Ganga, Son, Gandak, Ghaghara), earning it the classification of a Jaldurga (water-fortress).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Magadha controlled the main trade highways (Uttarapatha) and river routes along the Ganga, enabling trade control between Eastern and Western India.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Eastern forests supplied Magadha with wild war-elephants, giving its army a unique offensive capability against enemy fortifications.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the political systems of the 6th Century BCE is/are correct?

1. In Gana-Sanghas like Vajji and Malla, sovereign power was exercised by a collective assembly comprising clan heads rather than an absolute monarch.
2. Decision-making in republican assemblies was driven by voting through voting sticks collected by a designated official when consensus failed.
3. All Mahajanapadas operated under centralized, hereditary monarchical dynasties where popular assemblies held absolute veto power.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Gana-Sanghas were non-monarchical oligarchies governed by collective assemblies of clan leaders who held the title Raja.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Buddhist texts (such as the Vinaya Pitaka) document democratic procedural mechanisms within assemblies, including voting using colored wooden sticks (Salakas) supervised by a Salaka-Gahapaka.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The 16 Mahajanapadas consisted of both monarchies (e.g., Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa, Avanti) and non-monarchical Gana-Sanghas (e.g., Vajji, Malla). In monarchies, popular assemblies had lost their veto power to hereditary rulers.