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HISTORY

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Based on

N.I.O.S. Class – XII
National Institute of Open Schooling

By : **Taruna Jain**



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E-mail: info@neerajbooks.com

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**Sample Preview
of the
Solved
Sample Question
Papers**

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Solved Sample Paper - 1

Based on NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling)

History - XII

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

- Note :** (i) This Question Paper consists of two Sections, viz., 'A' and 'B'.
(ii) All questions from Section 'A' are to be attempted.
(iii) Section 'B' has two options. Candidates are required to attempt questions from one option only.
(iv) Answer Question Nos. 1 to 4 in not more than 20 words each, Question Nos. 5 to 11 and 17 in not more than 80 words each and Question Nos. 12 to 15 and 18 in not more than 200 words each.

SECTION-A

Q. 1. Who was Kanishka? State any one contribution of Kanishka to promote Buddhism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 46, Q. No. 1 (Intext Question 6.2).

Q. 2. Give two reasons for the proliferation of castes in the Later Gupta period.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 63, Q. No. 4.

Q. 3. In what two respects were the regional states different from the Empire of the Delhi Sultanate?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 86, Q. No. 1 and Q. No. 2. (Terminal Question).

Q. 4. How did the social relations in the colonies get altered by the impact of colonialism and capitalist penetration?

Ans. The impact of colonialism and capitalist penetration altered social relations in the colonies. They altered the pattern of agriculture to shift its priorities towards the cash crops they might trade in. This pattern of production for export was greatly expanded during the 19th and early 20th century's. For example, Indian peasants produced opium that British entrepreneurs exported to China. Indian merchants too had a hand in this.

Q. 5. Assess the significance of the use of iron in the expansion of the Aryan economy?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 29, Q. No. 5.

Or

Why is the sixth century BC referred to as an era of 'Second Urbanisation'? Explain any four points.

Ans. After 500 BCE, the so-called "Second Urbanisation" started, with new urban settlements arising at the Ganges plain, especially the Central Ganges plain. The Central Ganges Plain, where Magadha gained prominence, forming the base of the Mauryan Empire, was a distinct cultural area, with new states arising after 500 BCE during the so-called "Second Urbanisation". It was influenced by the Vedic culture, but differed markedly from the Kuru-Panchala

region. It was the area of the earliest known cultivation of rice in South Asia and by 1800 BCE was the location of an advanced Neolithic population associated with the sites of Chirand and Chechar. In this region the Shramanic movements flourished, and Jainism and Buddhism originated.

Q. 6. What were the main functions of Mir Bakshi and Diwan-i-Kul in the Mughal Administration?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 94, Q. No. 7.

Or

Describe the main features of the organisation of artisanal production in the Medieval period.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 101, Q. No. 13.

Q. 7. Analyse the impact of the policy of 'Free Trade' introduced by the British in India.

Ans. The British succeeded in selling their goods at a cheap price as foreign goods were given free entry in India without paying any duty. On the other hand, Indian handicrafts were taxed heavily when they were sent out of the country. Besides, under the pressure of its industrialists, British government often imposed a protective tariff on Indian textiles.

Or

Why did the British attitude towards the growth of Indian Press become reactionary? What was the role of Lord Lytton in this respect?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-18, Page No. 130, Q. No. 5.

Q. 8. Give any two points of difference between the development of nationalism in Europe and the birth of Indian nationalism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-20, Page No. 139, Q. No. 1 and 2 (Terminal Question).

Or

What were the main objectives of the Indian National Congress in its formative years? Explain.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-21, Page No. 143, Q. No. 1 (Intext Questions 21.1) and Page No. 145, Q. No. 1.

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Q. 9. Discuss how globalization affected the cultures of the countries outside the Western World?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-28, Page No. 178, Q. No. 4.

Or

Discuss how the imperialist rivalry over the possession of colonies was the major reason for World War I.

Ans. European expansion started in the early modern period, but most historians agree that at the end of the 19th century new forms of imperialism appeared. Between the early 1880s and 1914 the map of the world was redrawn, especially in Africa. With the founding of Germany and Italy, two rather aggressive and aspiring new powers appeared on the scene. After the turn of the century, two non-European states – Japan and the United States – also became imperial powers. Japan successfully fought against China (1894/95) and Russia (1904/05). As a regional Great Power, Japan established colonies in Korea and in the Pacific Ocean. After its victory in the Spanish-American War, the United States conquered a colonial empire of its own in East Asia (the Philippines), occupied Hawaii, and established an informal zone of influence in the Caribbean. The enormous progress in communications (railways, trans-oceanic telegraph lines, steamships), the second industrial revolution (steel, electricity, energy, chemistry), and technical progress in weapon technologies (modern artillery, Maxim-guns or machine guns) had enabled Europeans and North Americans to occupy and control territories and states which were either unknown (the African interior) or even perceived to be culturally superior (like China) some decades before the First World War. The reasons for the acceleration of European expansion in the second half of the 19th century are still subjects of controversial debates, but this topic calls for a separate analysis.

Q. 10. Why was the 'Munich Pact' said to be the last act of Appeasement by the Western powers? Explain.

Ans. The Munich Agreement was an agreement concluded at Munich on 30 September 1938, by Germany, the United Kingdom, the French Third Republic, and the Kingdom of Italy. It provided "cession to Germany of the Sudeten German territory" of Czechoslovakia, despite the existence of the 1924 alliance agreement and 1925 military pact between France and the Czechoslovak Republic, for which it is also known also as the Munich Betrayal. Most of Europe celebrated the Munich agreement, which was presented as a way to prevent a major war on the continent. The four powers agreed to the annexation of the Czechoslovak borderland areas named the Sudetenland, where more than 3 million people, mainly ethnic Germans, lived. Hitler announced it was his last territorial claim in Europe. Munich Pact signed by British and French Prime ministers Neville Chamberlain and Edouard Daladier sign the Munich Pact with Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. The agreement averted the outbreak of

war but gave Czechoslovakia away to German conquest.

Or

World War II radicalised the freedom movements in the colonies. Support the statement with four relevant points.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-24, Page No. 160, Q. No. 3.

Q. 11. What is referred to as the 'Cold War'? State any two reasons for the end of the 'Cold War'.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-25, Page No. 161, 'Introduction'.

Or

How did the labour and socialist movements help women in their struggle for the right to equality.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-27, Page No. 173, Q. No. 4 (Intext Questions 27.2) and Q. No. 1 and 2 (Intext Questions 27.3) and Page No. 174, Q. No. 1.

Q. 12. Give an account of Harappan trade with Mesopotamia, giving examples of archaeological and inscriptional evidence.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 22, Q. No. 3 (Terminal Question).

Or

Give an account of India's commercial and cultural contact with South East Asia in the period between 800-1200AD.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 68, Q. No. 1, 2 (Intext Questions 8.5) and Page No. 69, Q. No. 5.

Q. 13. Under what circumstances did Babur invade India? What was the significance of the First battle of Panipat?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 78, Q. No. 1, 2 and 3 (Intext Questions 10.1).

Or

Describe the main features of the Sufi movement that emerged in India. What was the nature of chishti's relationship with the state?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 108, Q. No. 1.

Q. 14. How did Lord Wellesley expand the British power in India? How did it impact the Indian rulers?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-16, Page No. 121, Q. No. 2.

Or

What were the reasons for the resentment of the Indian Sepoys that led them to rebel? How did the Revolt of 1857 become widespread?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-19, Page No. 136, Q. No. 1.

Q. 15. How did the spread of Western culture and language help in generating the feelings of Indian nationalism? Explain.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-20, Page No. 141, Q. No. 3 and 4.

Or

Why was Bengal partitioned in 1905? How did the people of Bengal react to the partition?

Ans. The Swadeshi and Boycott Movement were started in 7th August, 1905 to protest against the

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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HISTORY

ANCIENT INDIA

Understanding Indian History



INTRODUCTION

History is the study, the discovery, the collection, the organization and the presentation of the information about the past events. History helps us to analyze the society, its economy and cultural trends of the early period which in turn help us to gain knowledge about the past and its impact upon the society. Events of the past, prior to written record are considered pre-history. History helps us to analyze the society, its culture and its economical trends over a long period of time.

Historian is a person who tries to analyze the trends that exist in the society, evaluate those trends and then conclude why those trends emerged and their impact upon the society. A historian also makes a differentiation between the facts and the fictions. These analyzed the facts, cross check the evidences and then come to a conclusion. This chapter covers the details about the India's ancient past and its large varieties and their interpretations.

Some sources are required by a historian for reconstructing ancient Indian history. These sources are then interpreted by the historian who tracks these resources, follow the clues, ask the relevant questions, cross check them and then finally arrive at a meaningful explanation.

Primary resources available to students of the Indian history come from three sources i.e. literature, archaeology and foreigner's accounts. Rudiments of ancient Indian history have indeed been available to Indians for thousands of years, but it is impossible to arrange them in a chronological order or to differentiate

history from mythology and traditions from imaginations. The sculptures and the inscriptions that are passed on to us tend to glorify the kings or the donors and it is hard to cross check the validity of some of the claims found in them. Much of the foreign sources on India, namely the travelogues of explorers have been assembled through second-hand information and it is difficult to differentiate realities from hearsay.

One of the common sources of the ancient history includes the literary sources. The ancient Indian literature were mostly religious in nature and contains no definite date for events and kings, e.g. the *Puranas* and the epics. Vedic literature has no trace of political history but has a reliable glimpses of culture and civilization of the age. The epics like *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata* and the Jain and Buddhist religious texts supply us with some important historical material with doses of religious messages. Also *Upanishads* are main source of Indian philosophy. The secular literatures like Kalidasa's work during the Gupta period, Sangam literature, etc. do not belong to the category of the religious theme but provide a valuable information about the history of the ancient India.

Another most important resource which is non-literary in nature includes the inscriptions. These are mostly carved on gold, silver, iron, copper, bronze plates or stone pillars, rocks temple walls and bricks and are free from interpolations. Inscriptions in Prakrit, Pali, Sanskrit, Telugu, Tamil and other languages have been discovered. But most of the inscriptions are in Brahmi and Kharosti scripts. Coins are also important sources that help in providing the information about the ancient

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India. The study of coins is known as numismatics. Thousands of ancient Indian coins have been discovered from which idea about the contemporary economic condition, currency system, development of the metallurgical art has been obtained. The image of Samudragupta playing on a lyre gives us an idea of his love of music. From the dates on the coins, it has been possible to understand the contemporary political history. Samudragupta's Aswamedha coins and Lion-layer coins gives us an idea of his ambition and love of hunting.

Archaeological evidence provides a great insight about the historical evidences. The archaeological evidence is obtained by the systematic and skilled examination of building monuments and work of art. General Sir Alexander Cunningham, one of its Royal Engineers, dugged out the ruins of ancient site of pre-Aryan culture. From his arrival in India in 1831, Cunningham, the Father of Indian Archaeology devoted every minute he could spare from his military duties to the study of material remains of ancient India, until in 1862, the Indian Government established the post of Archaeological Surveyor, to which he was appointed. In 1901, Lord Curzon revived and enlarged the archaeological survey and appointed John Marshall its Director General. The discovery of India's oldest cities dating back to the second inter-glacial period between 400,000 and 200,000 BC in 1921 by Daya Ram Shahni was the biggest achievement of Archaeological Survey of India under Marshall, the first relics of which were noticed by Cunningham. The cities discovered were named Harappa and Mohenjodaro and the civilization as the Indus Valley Civilization. In 1922, an Indian officer of the Archaeological Survey, R.D. Banerjee, founded further seals at Mohenjodaro in Sindh, and recognized that they were remains of a pre-Aryan civilization of great antiquity. Under Sir John Marshall's direction, the sites were systematically excavated from 1924 until his retirement in 1931.

Carbon-14 (C-14) dating method is one of the important methods through which the age of the bone or the wood can be determined. The account of the foreign travellers provides the indigenous literature about the Indian history. A great deal of our knowledge of ancient Indian history is supplemented by the writing of foreigners. Some of the important works by the

foreign travellers includes Indica, Periplus of the Erythrean Sea, Life of Husang Tsang, a record of the Buddhists religion as practiced in India and Malay Archipelago, Record of the Buddhist Countries, Buddhist Records of the Western World, etc.

By utilizing all these evidences, it has been possible to throw some light on the civilization and culture that flourished in India, and to construct a political history from 7th century B.C. onwards. Our knowledge about India's glorious past was very little till the 19th century, when the genius and patient industry of a number of scholars, mostly European, substantially enhanced it. Still many areas of Indian history, especially cultural history have enormous voids in them. As we make new discoveries, some established facts may need a second look as well.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 1.1

Q. 1. Give the names of the four Vedas.

Ans. The four Vedas are:

- (i) The *Rigveda*, containing hymns to be recited by the holy;
- (ii) The *Yajurveda*, containing formulas to be recited by the *adhvaryu* or officiating priest;
- (iii) The *Samaveda*, containing formulas to be sung by the *udgatr*;
- (iv) The fourth is the *Atharvaveda*, a collection of spells and incantations, apotropaic charms and speculative hymns.

Q. 2. Which is the earliest text on Sanskrit Grammar?

Ans. The grammar of the Sanskrit language has a complex verbal system, rich nominal declension and extensive use of compound nouns. It was studied and codified by Sanskrit grammarians from the later Vedic period (roughly 8th century BC), culminating in the Paninian Grammar of the 4th century BC.

The earliest text on Sanskrit Grammar is *Ashtadhyay* of Panini work which consists of 3990 *sutras* or *aphorisms*.

Q. 3. What are Jatakas?

Ans. The *Jatakas* refer to a voluminous body of literature native to India concerning the previous births of the Buddha.

In Theravada Buddhism, the *Jatakas* are a textual division of the Pali canon, included in the *Khuddaka*

Nikaya of the *Sutta Pitaka*. The term *Jataka* may also refer to a traditional commentary on this book.

The *Jatakas* were originally amongst the earliest Buddhist literature, with metrical analysis methods dating their average contents to around the 4th century BCE.

According to A.K. Warder, the *Jatakas* are the precursors to the various legendary biographies of the Buddha, which were composed at later dates. Although many *Jatakas* were written from an early period, which describe previous lives of the Buddha, very little biographical material about Gautama's own life has been recorded.

Q. 4. What is the language of the south Indian literature called Sangam literature?

Ans. Sangam literature refers to a body of classical Tamil literature created between the years BC 300-AD 300. This collection contains 2381 poems composed by 473 poets, some 102 of whom remain anonymous. The period during which these poems were composed is commonly referred to as the Sangam period, referring to the prevalent Sangam legends claiming literary academics lasting thousands of years, giving the name to the corpus of literature. Sangam literature is primarily secular dealing with everyday themes in a Tamilakam context.

The poems belonging to the Sangam literature were composed by Dravidian Tamil poets, both men and women, from various professions and classes of the society. These poems were later collected into various anthologies, edited, and with colophons added by anthologists and annotators around 1000 AD.

Q. 5. What are the Upanishads?

Ans. The *Upanishads* are philosophical texts considered to be an early source of Hindu religion which discuss the philosophy of *atma* and *paramatma*. The oldest and most important, are variously referred to as the principal, main (*mukhya*) or old *Upanishads*. The oldest of these, the *Brihadaranyaka*, *Jaiminiya Upanisadbrahmana* and the *Chandogya Upanishads*, were composed during the pre-Buddhist era of India, while the *Taittiriya*, *Aitareya* and *Kausitaki*, which show Buddhist influence, must have been composed after the 5th century BCE. Discoveries of newer *Upanishads* were being reported as late as 1926. The newer *Upanishads* are known to be imitations of the *mukhya Upanishads*.

All *Upanishads* have been passed down in oral tradition. The *mukhya Upanishads* are regarded in Hinduism as revealed texts (*shruti*). With the *Bhagavad Gita* and the *Brahmasutra* (known collectively as the *Prasthanatrayi*), the *mukhya Upanishads* provide a foundation for several later schools of Indian philosophy (*Vedanta*), among them, two influential monistic schools of Hinduism.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 1.2

Q. 1. What is the study of inscriptions called?

Ans. Inscriptions are permanent writings which engraved on hard surface i.e. metal, stone or terracotta and the study of inscriptions is called epigraphy. Epigraphy as writing; that is, the science of identifying the graphemes and of classifying their use as to cultural context and date, elucidating their meaning and assessing what conclusions can be deduced concerning the writing and the writers. Specifically excluded from epigraphy is the historical significance of an epigraph as a document or the artistic value of a literary composition.

An epigraph is any sort of text, from a single grapheme to a lengthy document. Epigraphy overlaps other competences such as numismatics or palaeography. Most inscriptions are short compared to books. The media and the forms of the graphemes can be any whatever: engravings in stone or metal, scratches on rock, impressions in wax, embossing on cast metal, cameo or intaglio on precious stones, painting on ceramic or in fresco. Typically the material is durable, but the durability might be an accident of circumstance, such as the baking of a clay tablet in a conflagration.

Q. 2. What are Parashatis?

Ans. In early period inscriptions were composed by the poets in praise of kings and patrons. Such inscriptions were called as *Parashatis*. These inscriptions had dates and were written in both Tamil and Sanskrit language.

Q. 3. Define Palaeography.

Ans. Palaeography is the study of ancient writing. Included in the discipline is the practice of deciphering, reading and dating historical manuscripts and the cultural context of writing, including the methods with which writing and books were produced, and the history of scriptoria. Thus, palaeography is the style of writing carrying some precisions in it.

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Q. 4. In which script are most of the inscriptions of Ashoka written?

Ans. Brahmi is the modern name given to the oldest members of the Brahmic family of scripts. The best known Brahmi inscriptions are the rock-cut edicts of Ashoka in north-central India, dated to the 3rd century BCE. These are traditionally considered to be early known examples of Brahmi writing. Brahmi script was written from left to right and was deciphered by James Prinsep in 1837.

Brahmi was ancestral to most of the scripts of South Asia and South-east Asia, several Central Asian scripts such as Tibetan and Khotanese and possibly, in part, Korean Hangeul. The arrangement of Brahmi was adopted as the modern order of Japanese kana, though the letters themselves are unrelated.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 1.3

Q. 1. What is the study of the coins known as?

Ans. Numismatics is the study or collection of currency, including coins, tokens, paper money and related objects. While numismatists are often characterized as students or collectors of coins, the discipline also includes the broader study of money and other payment media used to resolve debts and the exchange of goods. Lacking a structured monetary system, people in the past lived in a barter society and used locally found items of inherent or implied value.

Economic and historical studies of money's use and development are an integral part of the numismatists' study of money's physical embodiment. Numismatics consists of visual elements on coins such as scripts and images and also metallurgical analysis.

Q. 2. Name the metals used to make punch-marked coins?

Ans. The first coins in India were minted around the 6th century BC by the Mahajanapadas of the Indo-Gangetic Plain and certainly before the invasion of Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC. The coins of this period were punch-marked coins called Puranas, Karshapanas or Pana. Several of these coins had a single symbol, for example, Saurashtra had a humped bull, and Dakshin Panchala had a Swastika, others, like Magadha, had several symbols. These coins were made of silver and copper of a standard weight, but with an irregular shape. This was gained by cutting up silver bars and then making the correct weight by cutting the edges of the coin.

Q. 3. Which dynasty issued the first gold coins in India?

Ans. The Kushanas issued the first gold coins in India. The Kushanas of Uttarakhand arrived in India as early as in the first century AD. Later on they had shifted towards the west. The Kushana Dynasty was founded by Kujula Kadphises.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 1.4

Q. 1. Define Archaeology.

Ans. Archaeology is the study of human society, primarily through the recovery and analysis of the material culture and environmental data that they have left behind, which includes artifacts, architecture, biofacts and cultural landscapes (the archaeological record). Because archaeology employs a wide range of different procedures, it can be considered to be both a science and a humanity.

Archaeology is of most importance for learning about prehistoric societies, when there are no written records for historians to study, making up over 99 per cent of total human history, from the Palaeolithic until the advent of literacy in any given society. Archaeology has various different goals, which range from studying human evolution to cultural evolution and understanding culture history. The discipline involves surveyance, excavation and eventually analysis of data collected to learn more about the past. Archaeology relies on cross-disciplinary research.

Q. 2. What is the use of C14 dating?

Ans. Carbon-14, C-14, or radiocarbon, is a radioactive isotope of carbon with a nucleus containing 6 protons and 8 neutrons. Its presence in organic materials is the basis of the radiocarbon dating method to date archaeological, geological and hydrogeological samples.

Radiocarbon dating is a radiometric dating method that uses (C14) to determine the age of carbonaceous materials up to about 60,000 years old.

One of the frequent uses of the technique is to date organic remains from archaeological sites. Plants fix atmospheric carbon during photosynthesis, so the level of C14 in plants and animals when they die approximately equals the level of C14 in the atmosphere at that time. However, it decreases thereafter from radioactive decay, allowing the date of death or fixation to be estimated. The initial C14 level for the calculation