



NEERAJ®

HISTORY

N-315

**Chapter wise Reference Book
Including MCQ's
& Many Solved Sample Papers**

Based on

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

By : Taruna Jain



**NEERAJ
PUBLICATIONS**

(Publishers of Educational Books)

Mob.: 8510009872, 8510009878 E-mail: info@neerajbooks.com

Website: www.neerajbooks.com

MRP ₹ 350/-

CONTENTS

HISTORY

Based on: **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING – XII**

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapters</i>	<i>Page</i>
	Solved Sample Paper - 1	1-7
	Solved Sample Paper - 2	1-5
	Solved Sample Paper - 3	1-5
	Solved Sample Paper - 4	1-5
	Solved Sample Paper - 5	1-5

ANCIENT INDIA

1.	Understanding Indian History	1
2.	The Geographical Setting and Pre-historic Cultures of India	8
3.	The Harappan Civilization	16
4.	The Vedic Age (1500 BC – 600 BC)	25
5.	From Janapadas to Empire	36
6.	Post-Mauryan Developments	44
7.	The Guptas and their Successors (AD 300-750)	55
8.	India Between A.D. 750-1200	66

MEDIEVAL INDIA

9.	Establishment and Expansion of the Delhi Sultanate	70
10.	Establishment of the Mughal Rule	77

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
11.	Emergence of the Regional States in India: Twelfth to Eighteenth Century	83
12.	Administrative System and Institutions	88
13.	Economy of Medieval India	97
14.	Cultural Developments in Medieval India	103
15.	Understanding 18th Century India	110
<u>MODERN INDIA</u>		
16.	Establishment of British Rule in India till 1857	117
17.	Economic Effects of British Colonialism	123
18.	Social Changes in Modern India	126
19.	Popular Resistance to Company Rule	134
<u>INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND CONTEMPORARY INDIA</u>		
20.	Nationalism	137
21.	Indian National Movement and Indian Democracy	142
<u>20th CENTURY WORLD</u>		
22.	The World in 1900: The 19th Century Legacy	148
23.	World War I and the Russian Revolution	152
24.	The Inter-War Period and the Second World War	156
25.	The Cold War Era and its Politics	161
26.	National Liberation Movements, Decolonization and Development, 1945 – Present	167
27.	Social Transformation in the 20th Century	172
28.	Cultural Change in the 20th Century	176

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
OPTIONAL MODULES		
<u>A: EVOLUTION OF STATE IN INDIA</u>		
29-A	Towards the Formation of the State	180
31-A	Early States	184
31-A	The Medieval State	189
32-A	Colonial State	193
<u>B: CULTURE IN INDIA</u>		
29-B	Contemporary Cultural Situation	195
30-B	Cultural Production	198
31-B	Cultural Communication	201
■ ■		

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

Published by:



**NEERAJ
PUBLICATIONS**

www.neerajbooks.com

Solved Sample Paper - 1

Based on NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling)

History - XII

N-315

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Note : (i) This question paper consists of 51 questions in all. (ii) All questions are compulsory. (iii) Marks are given against each question. (iv) Attempt all questions either from Option Module-6A or Option Module-6B in all Sections. Section A consists of: (a) Q. No. 1 to 20 – Multiple Choice type Questions (MCQs) carrying 1 mark each. Select and write the most appropriate option out of the four options given in each of these questions. An internal choice has been provided in some of these questions. You have to attempt only one of the given choices in such questions. (b) Q. No. 21 to 35 – Objective type questions of 2 marks each (with 2 sub-parts of 1 mark each). Attempt these questions as per the instructions given for each of the questions. (v) Section B consists of: (a) Q. No. 36 to 41 – Very Short questions carrying 2 marks each to be answered in the range of 30 to 50 words. (b) Q. No. 42 to 47 – Short Answer type questions carrying 3 marks each to be answered in the range of 50 to 80 words. (c) Q. No. 48 and 50 – Long Answer type questions carrying 5 marks each to be answered in the range of 80 to 120 words. Q. No. 51 – Map-based questions carrying 5 marks. (Alternative questions are given in lieu of map-based question for Visually Impaired candidates).

SECTION-A

Q. 1. In early 20th century, who first excavated Mohenjo-daro?

- (a) R.D. Banerji (b) D.R. Sahnii
(c) B.R. Sahay (d) R.D. Mukherji

Ans. (a) R.D. Banerji.

Q. 2. Which tree's branches are represented on the Harappan seal?

- (a) Tulsi (b) Peepal
(c) Neem (d) Mango

Ans. (b) Peepal.

OR

The Satavahanas claimed to have belonged to which Varna?

- (a) Brahmana (b) Vaishya
(c) Shudra (d) Kshatriya

Ans. (d) Kshatriya.

Q. 3. Which of the following major brick structures was found at Lothal?

- (a) Dockyard (b) Backyard
(c) Mountyard (d) Rockyard

Ans. (a) Dockyard.

Q. 4. The walls of houses of the Chalcolithic people were made of which of the following materials?

- (a) Mud (b) Wood
(c) Iron (d) Gold

Ans. (a) Mud.

OR

Which of the following terms was used for Greek astronomers in early Indian literature?

- (a) Yavanacharya (b) Yogacharya
(c) Grahacharya (d) Purohitacharya

Ans. (a) Yavanacharya.

Q. 5. How many incarnations of Vishnu were perceived according to Bhagvatism?

- (a) 10 (b) 11
(c) 12 (d) 13

Ans. (a) 10.

Q. 6. Who among the following rulers defeated Harshavardhana?

- (a) Pulakeshin II (b) Rajaraja
(c) Krishnadeva (d) Akbar

Ans. (a) Pulakeshin II.

OR

Which of the following commodities was exported by the Indians to the Eastern Roman Empire between 400 AD-550 AD?

- (a) Wood (b) Silk
(c) Steel (d) Gold

Ans. (b) Silk.

Q. 7. Among the following, whom can be considered the first Sultan of Delhi Sultanate?

- (a) Qutb-ud-din aibak (b) Raziya
(c) Balban (d) Alauddin

Ans. (a) Qutb-ud-din aibak.

OR

Who among the following founded the Sayyid dynasty?

- (a) Balban (b) Khizr Khan
(c) Sher Khan (d) Malik Kafur

Ans. (b) Khizr Khan.

Solved Sample Paper - 2

Based on NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling)

History - XII

N-315

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Note : (i) This question paper consists of 51 questions in all. (ii) All questions are compulsory. (iii) Marks are given against each question. (iv) Attempt all questions either from Option Module-6A or Option Module-6B in all Sections. Section A consists of: (a) Q. No. 1 to 20 – Multiple Choice type Questions (MCQs) carrying 1 mark each. Select and write the most appropriate option out of the four options given in each of these questions. An internal choice has been provided in some of these questions. You have to attempt only one of the given choices in such questions. (b) Q. No. 21 to 35 – Objective type questions of 2 marks each (with 2 sub-parts of 1 mark each). Attempt these questions as per the instructions given for each of the questions. (v) Section B consists of: (a) Q. No. 36 to 41 – Very Short questions carrying 2 marks each to be answered in the range of 30 to 50 words. (b) Q. No. 42 to 47 – Short Answer type questions carrying 3 marks each to be answered in the range of 50 to 80 words. (c) Q. No. 48 and 50 – Long Answer type questions carrying 5 marks each to be answered in the range of 80 to 120 words. Q. No. 51 – Map-based questions carrying 5 marks. (Alternative questions are given in lieu of map-based question for Visually Impaired candidates).

SECTION-A

Q. 1. Who is known as the Father of Indian Archaeology?

- (a) John Marshall
- (b) Daya Ram Sahni
- (c) General Sir Alexander Cunningham
- (d) R.D. Banerjee

Ans. (c) General Sir Alexander Cunningham.

Q. 2. Which period is known as the 'Old Stone Age'?

- (a) Neolithic Era
- (b) Mesolithic Era
- (c) Palaeolithic Era
- (d) Bronze Age

Ans. (c) Palaeolithic Era.

OR

Which of the following was a major agricultural product of the Harappan people?

- (a) Maize
- (b) Wheat
- (c) Coffee
- (d) Sugarcane

Ans. (b) Wheat.

Q. 3. Which animal was frequently mentioned in Rigvedic hymns and held in high esteem?

- (a) Buffalo
- (b) Cow
- (c) Elephant
- (d) Lion

Ans. (b) Cow.

Q. 4. Which Mahajanapada became the most powerful between the 6th and 4th centuries BCE?

- (a) Kosala
- (b) Kashi
- (c) Magadha
- (d) Avanti

Ans. (c) Magadha.

Q. 5. Which empire expanded rapidly across the northern part of the Indian subcontinent during the 1st and early 2nd centuries AD?

- (a) Mauryan Empire
- (b) Gupta Empire
- (c) Kushan Empire
- (d) Shunga Empire

Ans. (c) Kushan Empire.

Q. 6. What major development in science occurred during the Gupta period?

- (a) Invention of the zero
- (b) Advancement in metallurgy
- (c) Discovery of antibiotics
- (d) Development of the printing press

Ans. (b) Advancement in metallurgy.

OR

Which temple in Cambodia was built for King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century?

- (a) Barabudur
- (b) Angkorvat
- (c) Brihadeeswarar Temple
- (d) Konark Sun Temple

Ans. (b) Angkorvat.

Q. 7. Which ruler established the Ghurid Empire in India after defeating the Ghaznavid Empire?

- (a) Muhammad Ghori
- (b) Mahmud of Ghazni
- (c) Timur
- (d) Babur

Ans. (a) Muhammad Ghori.

OR

Who succeeded Babur as the Mughal Emperor?

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Shah Jahan
- (c) Humayun
- (d) Jahangir

Ans. (c) Humayun.

Q. 8. Who founded the Bahmani Sultanate?

- (a) Alauddin Bahman Shah
- (b) Mahmud Gawan
- (c) Muhammad-bin-Tughluq
- (d) Zafar Khan Muzaffar

Ans. (a) Alauddin Bahman Shah.

OR

During whose reign did the Muslim jurists first receive recognition in the Delhi Sultanate?

Sample Preview of The Chapter

Published by:



**NEERAJ
PUBLICATIONS**

www.neerajbooks.com

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

2 / NEERAJ : HISTORY (N.O.S.–XII)

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 Lions-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

4 / NEERAJ : HISTORY (N.O.S.–XII)

carrying some precisions in it.

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 Hangul. 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