

Test-1: Ancient Indian History

1. With reference to the religious practices of the Indus Valley civilization, consider the following statements:

1. One of the major features was the worship of the female goddess associated with fertility.
2. Several big temple constructions have been excavated from the ruins of Harappa and Mahenjodaro.
3. Animal worship was generally not practised at the time and emerged later in the Vedic period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding the state of Indian agriculture in sixth century BC:

1. In parts of the Ganga valley, the introduction of the transplantation technique added to the increase in paddy production.
2. The use of iron-tipped ploughshare led to a growth in agricultural productivity in the entire subcontinent.

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Later Vedic Period:

1. The later Vedic communities had developed an extensive taxation system.
2. The nobles and warriors could not grant land without the consent of the peasantry.
3. In the religious domain, sacrifices during the later Vedic times could be performed by the kings only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding 'Battle of Ten Kings' mentioned in Rigveda:

1. It was fought on the river Askini presently known as Chenab.
2. It led to the victory of Purus and established their supremacy.

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

5. With reference to the economy of Harappan civilization, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Harappan economy was characterized as a closed economy.

2. The barter system was the medium of exchange.
3. Lothal was one of the significant centers of the bead making industry of Harrapan civilization.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Rig Vedic society:

1. Women attended assemblies and performed rituals of sacrifice.
2. Widow remarriage was strictly prohibited.
3. Child marriage was widely prevalent during the Rigvedic period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. In the context of ancient cities/ports, which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Cities Famous for

1. Korkai : Pearl
2. Puhar : Cotton cloth
3. Madurai : Ivory making

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 3 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Central Asian contacts during the ancient period and their results:

1. The King Milinda depicted in Milinda Panho belongs to the Saka dynasty.
2. The first-ever inscription in chaste Sanskrit was issued by Kanishka.
3. Influenced by Buddhism, Kushanas discontinued the practice of belief in divine origin in Kingship.

Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements about ganas, during the period of Mahajanapadas:

1. Those Mahajanapadas which were oligarchies were called ganas.
2. Mahavira and the Buddha belonged to ganas.
3. Magadha, the most powerful mahajanapada, was an oligarchy.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

10. He defeated king Harshavardhan on the banks of Narmada. He patronized several scholars, including Ravikirti, who composed his Aihole inscription. He subjugated the Kadamba capital at Banavasi and compelled the Gangas of Mysore to acknowledge his suzerainty.

Which of the following rulers is being described in the above passage?

- (a) Chandragupta II
- (b) Kharavela
- (c) Pulakeshin II
- (d) Kirtivarman II

11. Mauryan state had to maintain a vast bureaucracy and no other period of ancient history had so many officers as in Maurya times. In this context which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

**Officers Duty**

- 1. Rajukas : Administration of Justice in the empire
- 2. Sannidhata : Highest officer in charge of the assessment of tax
- 3. Samaharta : Chief custodian of the state treasury and storehouse
- 4. Amatyas : Civil servants who look after the day-to-day administration

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

12. Which of the following reforms were taken by king Ashoka after the Kalinga war?

- 1. Steps for the welfare of people in foreign lands.
- 2. Prohibition on the slaughter of animals in sacrifices.
- 3. Renunciation of policy of conquest and aggression.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

13. Which of the following features characterize the pre-Mauryan (6th century B.C to 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C) period in north India?

- 1. Punch marked coins
- 2. Guild system
- 3. Paddy transplantation technique

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

14. With reference to Mauryan administration, consider the following statements:

- 1. King was the only authority to deal with judicial matters.
- 2. They developed vast machinery for assessment of taxes.
- 3. There existed a well-established espionage system in the Mauryan empire.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only

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

15. Consider the following statements in the context of Kushana coins:

1. Kanishka was the first to introduce gold coins in India.
2. Kushana's coins bore the images of both Buddha and Shiva.
3. The purity of gold coins of Kushana's period is lesser than that of Guptas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

16. The spread of Jainism in Karnataka is attributed to him. He renounced all worldly pleasures, gave up his throne and became a monk as per the tradition of Jainism. He traveled far into the south of India before settling down in Shravanabelagola and spent the last years as a Jain ascetic.

The above passage best describes which of the following rulers?

- (a) Samudragupta
- (b) Ashoka
- (c) Bindusara
- (d) Chandragupta Maurya

17. Consider the following:

**Term Meaning**

1. Gahapati : Master or Head of household
2. Agrahara : Land granted to Brahmana

3. Gomat : War in Rigvedic period for cows

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

18. Which of the following observations were made by Fa-Hien in his account on the Gupta administration?

1. People enjoyed a large degree of personal freedom and there was no state interference in the individual's life.
2. There was an extensive spy system to reduce corruption and theft which were widely prevalent.
3. Punishments for disobedience were severe and capital punishments very common.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

19. Which of the following statements is **not** correct regarding the development of literature during the Gupta age?

- (a) During this period secular literature works were produced.
- (b) The primary themes of literature during this period were poetry and romantic comedies.
- (c) Abhijnashakuntalam work of Kalidas was written during this period.
- (d) No puranic literature developed during this period.



20. Consider the following statements with respect to the social life during the Rig Vedic period:

1. Child marriage and the practice of Sati were widely prevalent during the Rig Vedic period.
2. The sacrifices were performed in temples.
3. The caste divisions were rigid in the society.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None

21. Arrange the following Chalcolithic culture from north to south.

1. Ahar
2. Kayath
3. Jorwe

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

22. Consider the following statements with reference to the Gurjara Pratihara dynasty:

1. They were one of the four patrilineal clans of the caste group referred to as Rajputs.
2. Their style of administration was based on the teachings of Kautilya's Arthashastra.
3. In order to expand their kingdom, the Gurjara-Pratihara kingdom was involved in the tripartite struggle for Kanauj.

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

23. Consider the following statements in the context of Samudragupta's reign :

1. Vishnusenana eulogised the military expeditions of Samudragupta on a pillar at Allahabad.
2. Chinese traveller Fa-hein visited the court of Samudragupta
3. Samudragupta adopted the famous title 'Vikramaditya'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) None

24. Consider the following statements in the context of the rule of Nandas:

1. Alexander invaded North-Western India during their reign.
2. Chandragupta Maurya overthrew Dhanananda to establish Mauryan rule.
3. Pliny, a Roman writer estimated the army of Nanda dynasty.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. Consider the following statements with respect to Town planning of Harappan cities:

1. The houses built in Harappan cities were of uniform size representing Harappan society's egalitarian character.

2. The structures of both Great Bath and dockyard can be found at Mohenjodaro.

3. The sacrificial constructions were not found in Harappan cities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None

26. Of the second Sangam, it is the only surviving work. It is a work on Tamil grammar but it also provides information on the political and socio-economic conditions of the Sangam period. Which work is being described in the above-given paragraph?

- (a) Ettutogai
- (b) Tolkappiyam
- (c) Pathinenkilkanakku
- (d) Silappathikaram

27. Consider the following statements about the Harappan script:

- 1. The Harappan script was mainly alphabetical.
- 2. The script was written from right to left and from left to right in alternate lines.
- 3. The Harappans produced long and detailed inscriptions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

28. Arrange the following 'Mahajanapadas' from north to south.

- 1. Ashmak
- 2. Kuru
- 3. Koshal
- 4. Chedi

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

29. Consider the following statements regarding Harsha:

- 1. Administration at the time of Harsha was well centralized and law order was well maintained as it was during the Maurya administration.
- 2. He convened an assembly at Kannauj to widely publicize the theravada form of Buddhism.

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

30. Consider the following pairs:

**Indus Valley sites Location**

- 1. Banawali : Haryana
- 2. Kalibangan : Punjab
- 3. Dholavira : Gujarat
- 4. Shortughai : Rajasthan

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

31. Which of the following artifacts were found in Indus Valley Civilization?

- 1. Gold necklace
- 2. Spindle whorls
- 3. Copper bracelets
- 4. Plain pottery

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

32. Which of the following is **not** correct with reference to the status of women in the Sangam age (3rd-century B.C.- 3rd century A.D.)?

- (a) Women were allowed to choose their life partners.
- (b) The practice of sati was prevalent in the higher strata of society.
- (c) Widow remarriage was prevalent.
- (d) Women excelled in education and arts.

33. Which of the following statements regarding the Gupta period is **not** correct?

- (a) The position of women became miserable.
- (b) Caste system became rigid.
- (c) Scientific fervor underwent a drastic reduction under the Guptas.

(d) There was less or no state interference in the individual's life.

34. Consider the following statements regarding pottery of Indus Valley Civilization:

- 1. There is no evidence of Wheel-made pottery in Indus Valley Civilization.
- 2. The Plain pottery is more common than painted ware and it was generally made up of red clay.
- 3. The miniature pots of faience (glaze) are found in all the settlements of Indus Valley Civilization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. With reference to prehistorical sites in India, consider the following pairs:

**Site Period**

- 1. Gufkral : Mesolithic
- 2. Bagor : Megalithic
- 3. Burzahom : Neolithic

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

36. Recent excavations at a site near Nagpur have provided fresh evidence about the Vakataka dynasty, which ruled during the mid-third century CE. In this context, which of the following

statements is **not** correct with reference to the Vakataka dynasty?

(a) They ruled around the central deccan region from Malwa in Gujarat to Tungabhadra in south.

(b) It is the only dynasty to have been founded by a female ruler.

(c) The rulers of the dynasty are believed to have been Shaivites.

(d) The dynasty had matrimonial alliances with the contemporary Gupta dynasty.

37. Which of the following statements about the social conditions during the Gupta period is/are correct?

1. Kshatriya occupied the top position in the society as the supremacy of Brahmins began to decline.

2. Shudras were allowed to listen to religious texts.

3. Position of upper-caste women improved as they were allowed to inherit landed property.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only

(b) 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) 2 only

38. Consider the following statements about Mauryan King Ashoka:

1. Ashoka Dhamma's primary objective was to attract and convert people to the Buddhist religion.

2. King Ashoka appointed the special officials for the peaceful functioning of the principles of Dhamma.

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

39. Consider the following statements with reference to the Neolithic period (or the New Stone Age) in India:

1. Neolithic settlements of south India are generally older than the ones in northern India.

2. People were largely dependent on hunting, fishing and gathering as cultivation had not yet begun.

3. Neolithic people used foot wheels to make pots.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only

(b) 3 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 1 and 3 only

40. With reference to trade and commerce in the Indus Valley civilization, consider the following statements:

1. The Indus valley people used metal money to carry out trade.

2. The use of wheeled transport for trade was not known to them.

3. They had commercial links with the people in Central Asia and Mesopotamia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1 and 2 only

41. Consider the following statements regarding the Pala empire:



1. It was founded by Gopala.
2. Nalanda and Vikramshila Universities were established by Pala rulers.
3. The trade during the Pala empire was exclusively within the Indian subcontinent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

42. Consider the following statements with reference to Harshavardhana:

1. Harsha patronised both Shaivism and Buddhism.
2. He prohibited the use of animal food in his kingdom and punished those who kill any living being.
3. He convened the Kanauj assembly to honor the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

43. Consider the following pairs in the context of mahajanapadas of ancient India and the famous rulers associated with them:

**Mahajanapada Ruler**

1. Magadha : Vasudeva
2. Kosala : Prasenjit
3. Avanti : Pradyota

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 only

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

44. Consider the following statements regarding crafts during the Post-Mauryan age (200 B.C.- 300 A.D):

1. Shataka was a special type of cloth manufactured in Mathura.
2. Coin-minting was an important craft and minting of fake Roman coins was also prevalent.
3. Terracotta manufacturing was prevalent in the Kushan and Satavahana sites.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Which of the following functions were performed by the village assembly, i.e Sabha during the later Cholas?

1. Raise loans for the village
2. Levy taxes
3. Maintenance of charitable institutions
4. Exercise ownership rights over land

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

46. In ancient India, which factors led to the rise of the Magadha Empire?

1. Its capital at Pataliputra was a true water-fort.
2. Its location in Gangetic plains enabled the peasants to produce a surplus of grains and store for tough times.
3. It was benefitted by the rise of towns and the use of metal money.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

47. With reference to the Tripartite struggle of medieval history, consider the following statements:

1. It was fought between Pratihara, Rashtrakuta and Pala dynasty.
2. The three kingdoms fought for control of the Malwa region which had plenty of resources and was seen as a symbol of prestige and power during the early medieval period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 and 2

48. Which of the following Kingdoms were contemporary of the Kanva kingdom?

- (a) Satvahanas
- (b) Gupta
- (c) Shunga
- (d) Nanda

49. Consider the following statements about Bimbisara:

1. He was a contemporary of both Buddha and Mahavira.
2. He pursued a three-pronged policy, namely, matrimonial alliances, friendship with strong rulers and conquest of weak neighbours to expand the empire.
3. He made Patliputra as his capital.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

50. Which of the following strategies were used in the post-Mauryan period to increase agricultural production?

1. Shift to plough agriculture
2. Introduction of paddy transplantation
3. Use of irrigation through wells and tanks

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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