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# PREFACE

*The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential, these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence - Confucius*

## Introduction

More than 10 lakh candidates appear for competitive examinations like the Civil Services Examination (CSE), State Public Service Commission Examinations (PSCs), and other government examinations. These examinations call for rigorous and robust preparation, meticulous practice, and discipline. Often candidates ignore comprehensive resources like NCERT books in favour of more well known and popular resources, thus missing out an important element that can provide them the extra edge in preparation.

The *One for All NCERT Question Bank* is an objective question bank for competitive examinations at the national and state level, covering Economics, History, Geography, Polity and General Science. It is one of the most important books any candidate can add to his/her examination preparation portfolio.

## How will this book benefit students?

The *One for All NCERT Question Bank* has been developed with competitive examinations in mind, like UPSC, State PSCs and other competitive examinations. It has complete coverage of the NCERT syllabus, with chapter wise summary to cover all important points. Questions are structured exactly as per the exam pattern, and also feature 100% detailed solutions, aiding students to understand their preparation gaps. It features chapter wise MCQs in level, with the moderate level featuring questions from state PSCs and other government examinations, and the advance level featuring questions from the UPSC examinations. Previous years question papers of all relevant exams (UPSC, State PSC, amongst others) have been included to equip students with previous question paper pattern. This book also includes comprehensive video course of 10+ hours which makes it one of its own kind of a book.

This book has been developed with the highest editorial standards, keeping in mind the rigor and the meticulousness of resources catering to competitive examinations. The features of the book make it a must-have for anyone preparing for any competitive examination.

We also wish to thank **Mr. Shubhendra Tiwari** and **Mr. Lalit Sikarwar** who made this book a valuable addition to the Oswaal Knowledge family. Their expert knowledge, advice and recommendations will help our readers gain valuable insights and knowledge and secure a high rank in these competitive examinations.

We wish the readers great success ahead!

All the best!  
Team Oswaal



# Importance of NCERT Books for UPSC and other government exams

## Introduction

Books published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) are usually not considered to be top of mind when it comes to preparing for competitive examinations like Civil Services Examinations (CSE), Combined Defence Services (CDS), exams conducted by National Defence Academy (NDA) and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). However, this is a fallacy that can cost any student dearly, not just in terms of ranks secured in the examination, but even qualifications. NCERT books are by far the most comprehensive and reliable source of information that can elevate the level of preparation a candidate has for any of the above competitive examinations.

Here are five reasons why NCERT books should be among the go-to resources for preparing for competitive examinations.

### 1. Credibility

NCERT books are an authentic source of information as the books are authored by reputed, credible experts, and the information published is sourced from credentialed government reports, ministries agencies, and institutions. If a candidate prepares using any NCERT textbook, then s/he can be rest assured that the content is factually correct, updated, and accurate. In competitive examinations, where a single mark difference can be crucial, factual accuracy is a huge differentiator and determinant of qualification and rank.

### 2. Comprehensive

NCERT books are comprehensive and reliable. The language in NCERT books is lucid and easily understandable. The books provide a basic idea of all the concepts, provide detailed explanations where necessary, and aid in the understanding of complex topics. Most examinations rely on NCERT topics for question selection and topic coverage and missing out on NCERT books can cost candidates dearly.

### 3. Research-driven

NCERT books are authored by subject matter experts and specialists who have decades of experience in their chosen fields. The content in NCERT books is authored after extensive research done by authors, co-authors, editors, and support staff. Usually, the authors are eminent experts, professors of reputed academic universities, and research institutions.

### 5. Authentic

NCERT books are almost error-free. The content is checked times before it is published. There is an extensive editorial team that supports the publication of all books and hence the content and editorial quality are of the highest standard.

## Conclusion

Candidates preparing for competitive examinations cannot afford to give NCERT books a miss. Authored by experts and backed by research, these books aid in bridging the learning curve as they are quite lucid and easy to understand. Having a good grasp and understanding of the basics can improve the confidence level of the candidates during preparation and spur them to secure better marks and rank.

**Aashirvad Kumar**

**UPSC Consultant-Oswaal Books**

Faculty SPM IAS Academy, Guwahati, 6 years of Teaching experience,

3 UPSC Interviews

Mentored Multiple Single digit Ranks in UPSC

# Approach to read NCERT Books for UPSC and other government exams

## Introduction

The Civil Services Examination (CSE) conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for appointments into the elite branches of civil services of the Government of India is considered one of the most rigorous and demanding examinations in India.

The intake applications rate for UPSC is quite high – every year around 900,000 to 1,000,000 candidates apply every year. Candidates feel daunted, and sometimes are unsure of getting the right rank even if they have the right preparation, because of the sheer number of candidates appearing in the examination. Often in an attempt to read more current resources, candidates miss out on reading the most comprehensive resources already at their disposal, books published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Here are a few strategies for how NCERT books can be leveraged for CSE preparation.

### 1. Coverage strategy

It is advised to cover the NCERT books subject-wise from Class VI to XII. For example, for history, you may want to start with the textbook for Class VI, moving on to VII, VIII, and so on. This will give you subject continuity and help you build your understanding chronologically. It is also recommended to build interlinks between your knowledge of the subject from a previous class while reading the textbook of the next class. To further consolidate your preparation, solve MCQs from another book to help cement your understanding of the subject further.

### 2. Visual assets

For subjects like geography and biology, visual assets are very important. Diagrams provided in NCERT textbooks are very important for these subjects. Some of the representations are relevant for the main of various state public service examinations.

### 3. Subject-specific strategies

It is imperative to give special attention to some subjects such as geography, and science (environment science sections). Questions from these topics are frequently asked in the examination and preparing from NCERT ensures that your subject knowledge is current, authentic, and up to date.

## Conclusion

Candidates preparing for UPSC need to leverage every resource for strategic competitive advantage. Preparation with NCERT books can give candidates the necessary edge. To help candidates improve their confidence while attempting UPSC, Oswaal Books is launching NCERT summaries from Class VI-XII. This power-packed resource will help save time by highlighting the necessary sections for UPSC preparation as well as give candidates confidence that they have covered everything. This best-in-class resource will give candidates a tremendous advantage as they are a derivative of the research-backed NCERT books but are condensed for UPSC preparation.

**Aashirvad Kumar**

**UPSC Consultant-Oswaal Books**

Faculty SPM IAS Academy, Guwahati, 6 years of Teaching experience,

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## WHAT, WHERE, HOW AND WHEN?

### Through History

- We can learn about the standard and ways of living of people, their eating habits, clothing and types of houses they used to live in.
- We can learn about the lives of people such as hunters, farmers, rulers, merchants, artisans, musicians, scientists etc.

### Where did people live in the past?

- People used to live along the bank of the Narmada River, they were known as skilled gatherers. They were skilled Gatherers and used to gather food. They knew about the vast wealth of plants in the surrounding forests. They also hunted animals.
- Around 8000 years ago people of Sulaiman and Kirthar hills in the northwest started growing crops such as wheat and barley. There was a significant development of agriculture in the Garo Hills also.
- Rice was first grown by the people of the northern part of Vindhya.
- Apart from agriculture they also started domesticating animals like sheep, cattle and started living in the villages.
- Around 2500 years ago, various cities were formed around the river Ganga its tributaries and along the sea coasts.
- The southern part of river Ganga was known as Magadha, presently the city is within the state of Bihar. The rulers of Magadha were very powerful. They established a huge kingdom.

### How did people use to travel in the past?

- Men and women used to travel from one part to another through hills and high mountains in search of livelihood and to escape from natural disasters such as floods or droughts.
- Merchants travelled with ships and caravans with their valuable goods.
- Many religious teachers used to wander from one place to another to propagate their religious messages.
- Natural frontiers such as hills, mountains and seas were very difficult to cross still it did not become a barrier for the people and many people came and settled in the subcontinent.

### Names of the land

- Our country is known by two names – India and Bharat.
- India: India originates from the word Indus, called Sindhu in Sanskrit. It was called Indos or Hindus by the Greeks when they arrived northwest of our country 2500 years ago.
- Bharat: The name Bharata was used for a group of people who lived in the northwest and who are mentioned in the Rigveda, the earliest composition in Sanskrit. Later it was used for the country.

### Finding out about the Past

- Manuscripts: Manuscripts comes from the Latin word "Manu", means hand. Manuscripts are books, written by hand on palm leaves in Sanskrit, Prakrit (language used by ordinary people) and Tamil languages. These books provide information about religious practices, medicines, science, etc.
- Over the years, many Manuscripts were eaten away by insects, some were destroyed, but many have survived, often preserved in temples and monasteries.
- Inscriptions: Inscriptions are writings on relatively hard surfaces such as stone or metal. Kings got their orders inscribed so that people could see, read and obey them.
- Archaeology: The study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artefacts and other physical remains.
- The inscriptions and manuscripts are studied by archaeologists. Archaeologists study and explore the remains of buildings made of stones and bricks, paintings and sculptures.
- So there are three sources to know about the past – Manuscripts, Inscriptions and Archaeology.

### Different People with Different Pasts

- The past of farmers is different than the past of kings and queens, the lives of merchants and craftsmen were very different.
- Kings used to keep records of their battles and victories whereas, not many records were kept by the hunters, fishing folk, gatherers, farmers or herders. So, the maximum portion of the lives of these people remains unknown.

### Ashoka's Inscription in Kandahar

- The Kandahar rock inscription is about 2250 years old, found in Kandahar, present-day Afghanistan.
- It was inscribed on the orders of a ruler named Ashoka. This inscription was inscribed in Greek and Aramaic languages.

### What is Decipherment?

- Inscriptions contain scripts and languages. There was a continuous transformation of languages and scripts from time to time.
- Decipherment is the technique of identifying the languages and scripts inscribed on the inscriptions.

### What do you mean by dates?

- We count dates, years from the birth of Jesus Christ. You must have heard about the BC and AD.
- All the dates before the birth of Christ counted backward and usually have the letters BC (Before Christ). The years after the birth of Jesus Christ are often suffixed with the letters AD (Anno Domini) which means 'in the year of the Lord (Christ)'.

## QUESTIONS

### LEVEL-1 : MODERATE

- The earliest people lived on the bank of which river?  
(a) Tapi (b) Bhagirathi  
(c) Narmada (d) Yamuna
- The way, in which a language is written, is known as  
(a) History (b) Script  
(c) Edicts (d) Archaeology
- On which river's bank, the cities were developed about 2500 years ago?  
(a) Saraswati (b) Yamuna  
(c) Indus (d) None of the above
- Iranian and the Greeks come from \_\_\_\_\_ around 2500 years ago.  
(a) North West (b) South West  
(c) South East (d) North East
- Which of the following language is not used for writing manuscripts?  
(a) Prakrit (b) Hindi  
(c) Tamil (d) Sanskrit
- Consider the following statements:  
1. In ancient times, women were not allowed to grow crops.  
2. Crops such as wheat and barley were only confined to the southern part of India.  
Which of the statements given above is /are correct?  
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- When did agriculture start in India?  
(a) 4700 years ago (b) 2500 years ago  
(c) 8000 years ago (d) 5500 years ago
- Which city was established on the banks of Ganga?  
(a) Kosala (b) Magadha  
(c) Khushinagar (d) Anga
- Son is the tributary of which river?  
(a) Narmada (b) Indus  
(c) Ganga (d) None of the above
- People travelled from one place to another in search of  
(a) Food  
(b) Livelihood  
(c) To escape from disasters  
(d) All of the above
- What helps us 'to find out the records of hunters, fishing folk etc. ?  
(a) Archaeology (b) Astrology  
(c) Biology (d) All of these
- Manuscripts were made on the leaves of which tree?  
(a) Neem (b) Peepal  
(c) Birch (d) Palm

### LEVEL-2 : ADVANCED

- In Ancient times, with respect to the Ganga, which area is known as Magadha?  
(a) West of the Ganges  
(b) East of the Ganges  
(c) South of the Ganges  
(d) North-West of the Ganges

- With respect to the ancient people, consider the following statements:

- Skilled gatherers were also known as hunter gatherers as they used to hunt and gather their own food.
- Rice was first grown by the people in the southern part of Narmada.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- In the context of the names 'Bharat and India', consider the following statements:

- The Iranians and the Greeks who came through the northwest about 2500 years ago called it the Hindos or the Indos and the land to the east of the river was called India.
- The name Bharata was used for a group of people who lived in the northwest and were also mentioned in the Rigveda.
- The word India originates from the Indus, alternatively known as Sindhu in Sanskrit.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 2 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
- Regarding the River Narmada, consider the following statements:

- People have lived along the banks of Narmada for several hundred thousand years.
- People who used to live here were known as skilled gatherers.
- They were not aware of the importance of surrounding forests and the vast wealth of plants.

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

- 1 and 3 only
  - 1 and 2 only
  - 3 only
  - 2 only
- Consider the following statements regarding the Manuscripts and choose which of the following statement is not correct:  
(a) Books written in the past were called manuscripts.  
(b) These are called manuscripts because they were written by hand (this comes from the Latin word 'manu', meaning hand).  
(c) These were usually written on palm leaves, or on the specially prepared bark of a tree known as the birch, which grows in the Himalayas.  
(d) Manuscripts, written in Sanskrit and Hindi language, were often preserved in temples and monasteries.

- In ancient times, which language was used by ordinary people?

- Prakrit
- Indo-Aryan
- Greek
- Hindi

- Consider the following statements, regarding the Archaeologists:

- In the present day, the inscriptions and manuscripts are studied by archaeologists.
- Archaeology is the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human history, human biology, culture and societies in both the present and past.

3. To find out the eating habits of the people in the past, the bones of animals, birds and fish were also examined by the archaeologists.  
Which of the statements given above is /are correct?  
(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 only
8. Ashoka's inscription, founded in Kandahar, was written in which of the following scripts and languages?  
(a) Aramaic and Brahmi (b) Greek and Brahmi  
(c) Devanagari and Tamil (d) Greek and Aramaic
9. Consider the following assertion with the given reason:  
**Assertion:** All dates before the birth of Jesus Christ are followed by 'BC' (Before Christ).  
**Reason:** Jesus Christ was the founder of Christianity.  
Use the code given below to select the correct answer:  
(a) Both assertion and reason are correct and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.  
(b) Both assertion and reason are correct, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion  
(c) Assertion is correct but the reason is not correct.  
(d) Assertion is not correct but the reason is correct.
10. Garo hills to the north-east and the Vindhyas in central India, were some of the other areas where \_\_\_\_\_ developed.  
(a) Commercial Markets (b) Fishing  
(c) Agriculture (d) Industry

**LEVEL-3 : PREVIOUS YEARS**

1. Who among the following rulers advised his subjects through this inscription? [UPSC]  
"Whosoever praises his religious sect or blames other sects out of excessive devotion to his own sect, with the view of glorifying his own sect, rather injures his own sect very severely."  
(a) Ashoka (b) Samudragupta  
(c) Harshavardhana (d) Krishnadeva Raya
2. The word 'Hindu' as reference to the people of Hind (India) was first used by: [UPSC]  
(a) The Arabs (b) The Chinese  
(c) The Romans (d) The Greeks
3. The language used to write source materials in ancient time was: [SSC]  
(a) Sanskrit (b) Pali  
(c) Brahmi (d) Kharosthi

**ANSWERS WITH EXPLANATION****LEVEL-1 : MODERATE**

1. **Option (c) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** In the past, People lived on the banks of the river Narmada and they were skilled gatherers.
2. **Option (b) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** The script is any particular system of writing or the written means of human communication. Script originated as simply a means of communicating spoken language over long distances as necessitated by trade.  
Devanagari, Brahmi, Gurumukhi, Latin script are some examples of scripts used all over the world.
3. **Option (d) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Around 2500 years ago, various civilizations were formed on the banks of the river Ganga and its tributaries and along the sea coasts. The Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, two famous cities of the Indus valley civilization flourished on the traces of the river Indus and its tributaries 4700 years ago.
4. **Option (a) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Our country was called Hindos or the Indos and the land to the east of the Indus River was termed India by the Iranians and the Greeks around 2500 years ago. They reached here through the northwestern part of the subcontinent.
5. **Option (b) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Manuscripts are records written by hand. These were usually written on palm leaves, or on the specially prepared bark of a tree known as the birch. The main language used in writing those books was Sanskrit. Apart from Sanskrit, Prakrit and Tamil were also used.
6. **Option (d) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** The areas where women and men first began to grow crops such as wheat and barley about

8000 years ago are the Sulaiman and Kirthar hills to the northwest.

Garo hills to the north-east and the Vindhyas in central India were some of the other areas where agriculture developed. The places where rice was first grown are to the north of the Vindhyas. It is nowhere mentioned that crops such as wheat and barley were only confined to southern India.

7. **Option (c) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Men and women started practicing agriculture around 8000 years ago in the north western region of India.
8. **Option (b) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Magadha was located on the banks of the river Ganga with its capital at Rajagriha. Among the sixteen mahajanapadas, Magadha became one of the most powerful ones.
9. **Option (c) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Son River, It is also spelled Sone, is principal southern tributary of the Ganges (Ganga) River and it rises in Madhya Pradesh, a state in central India. It flows north past Manpur and then turns northeast.
10. **Option (d) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** People travelled from one part of the subcontinent to another. The hills and high mountains including the Himalayas, deserts, rivers and seas made journeys dangerous at times, but never impossible. So, men and women moved in search of livelihood, food as also to escape from natural disasters like floods or droughts.
11. **Option (a) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** The study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artefacts and other physical remains.
12. **Option (d) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Manuscripts are books written by hand on palm leaves in Sanskrit, Prakrit and Tamil languages.

## LEVEL-2 : ADVANCED

1. **Option (c) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** In ancient times the area along these rivers to the south of the Ganga was known as Magadha. Presently, the city is within the state of Bihar. The rulers of Magadha were very powerful; a huge kingdom was established by its rulers. Different kingdoms were set up in various parts of the country.
2. **Option (a) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** People who lived in the subcontinent about two million years ago and who hunted wild animals, caught fish and birds, gathered food to eat, were the Hunter-gatherers, also known as skilled gatherers. Hence, statement 1 is correct.  
 Rice was first grown by the people in the northern part of Vindhya. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
3. **Option (d) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Our country is known by two names—India and Bharat. The word India originates from the Indus, alternatively known as Sindhu in Sanskrit. Hence, statement 3 is correct.  
 The land was called Hindos or the Indos and the land to the east of the Indus River was termed India by the Iranians and the Greeks around 2500 years ago. They reached here through the northwestern part of the subcontinent. Hence, statement 1 is correct.  
 The people of the North-West portion of India called the same piece of land as Bharat. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
4. **Option (c) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** People have lived along the banks of river Narmada for several hundred thousand years. Hence, statement 1 is correct.  
 Some of the earliest people who lived here were skilled gatherers, — that is, people who gathered their food. Hence, statement 2 is correct.  
 They knew about the vast wealth of plants in the surrounding forests and collected roots, fruits and other forest produce for their food. They also hunted animals. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
5. **Option (d) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Manuscripts: There are several ways of finding out about the past. One is to search for and read books that were written long ago. These are called manuscripts because they were written by hand (this comes from the Latin word 'manu', meaning hand).  
 These were usually written on palm leaf, or on the specially prepared bark of a tree known as the birch, which grows in the Himalayas.  
 Many of these were written in Sanskrit, others were in Prakrit (languages used by ordinary people) and Tamil. Hence only the statement 'd' is not correct.
6. **Option (a) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Prakrit is the language used by ordinary people in ancient India. Prakrits were considered the regional spoken (informal) languages of people and Sanskrit was considered the standardized (formal) language used for literary, official and religious purposes across Indian kingdoms of the subcontinent. Prakrit languages are a group of vernacular Middle Indo-Aryan languages that were used in the Indian subcontinent from around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE to the 8<sup>th</sup> century CE. The term Prakrit is usually applied to the middle period of Middle Indo-Aryan languages.

## Oswaal, One for All NCERT Question Bank, History

7. **Option (b) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Archeology is the study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artefacts and other physical remains. The Inscriptions, Manuscripts are studied by archaeologists. Hence, statement 1 is correct but statement 2 is not correct. Given statement 2 is the definition of Anthropology, not Archeology.  
 Archaeologists study the remains of buildings made of stone and brick, paintings and sculptures. They also look for bones — of animals, birds and fish — to find out what people ate in the past. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
8. **Option (d) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Ashoka's Inscription in Kandahar: The Kandhar rock inscription is about 2250 years old, found in Kandahar, present-day Afghanistan.  
 It was inscribed on the orders of a ruler named Ashoka. This inscription was inscribed in Greek and Aramaic languages.
9. **Option (b) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Both assertion and reason are correct, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.  
 In the present day, each of the months, days and years are counted based on the birth of Jesus Christ. He was the founder of Christianity.  
 The dates before the birth of Christ are calculated in the backward direction and are suffixed with the letters BC 'Before Christ'.  
 The years after the birth of Jesus Christ are often suffixed with the letters AD 'Anno Domini'.
10. **Option (c) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** The Garo hills to the north-east and the Vindhya in central India. These were some of the other areas where Agriculture developed. The places where rice was first grown are to the north of the Vindhya.

## LEVEL-3 : PREVIOUS YEARS

1. **Option (a) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Ashoka has been credited with the propagation of the tenets of the Buddhist sect. Ashoka's edicts and inscriptions contained instructions on religious matters especially Buddhism and rules for the conduct of Bhikshuks.
2. **Option (a) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Arabs were the first to use the word 'Hindu'. Megasthenes' 'Indica' said the name for India and Indians around the 4th Century B.C.E. This word was misunderstood by Arabs. They used the word Hindu.
3. **Option (b) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Pali is a Middle Indo-Aryan language (of Prakrit group) of the Indian subcontinent. It is best known as the language of many of the earliest extant Buddhist scriptures, as collected in the Pali Canon or Tipitaka and as the liturgical language of Theravada Buddhism.



## FROM HUNTING-GATHERING TO GROWING FOOD

### The Earliest People and Why did they use to travel from one place to another?

- In the early period, people used to gather food by hunting and gathering. These were known as Hunter-Gatherers. They hunted animals, caught fish and gathered plants to fulfil their food requirement.
- If they had stayed at one place for a long time, they would have eaten up all the available plant and animal resources.
- Animals move from place to place so these people had to follow their movements to hunt them.
- Plant and trees are dependent on seasons, so people had to move season to season in search of different kinds of plants.
- People used to travel in search of water, because water was very important for plants, people and animals to survive.

### How do we know about the earliest people?

- Archaeologists have found some of the things hunter-gatherers made and used.
- They made various tools used for hunting and gathering from stones, woods and bones.
- Some of the stone tools were used to cut down wood. Wood was used to light a fire, create huts.

### Choosing a place to live in

- They lived near to the sources of water, such as rivers, lakes and streams.
- They tried to find places where sufficient availability of stones, wood and food was present.

### Bhimbhetka Caves

- The Bhimbetka rock shelters are an archaeological site in MP that spans the prehistoric Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods.
- Palaeolithic comes from two greek words 'Palaeo' means 'Old' and 'Lithos' means 'Stone'. Hence, this period is also called the Old Stone Age.
- The period when we find environmental changes, beginning about 12,000 years ago till about 10,000 years ago is called the Mesolithic (middle stone). Stone tools found during this period are generally tiny and are called microliths.
- It exhibits the earliest traces of human life in India.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The Bhimbetka rock shelters were discovered by V S Wakankar in 1957.

### Rock Paintings

- Earliest people used to draw images and symbols on rock surfaces. The first prehistoric paintings were uncovered in Madhya Pradesh's Bhimbetka caves.
- Many of the caves in which these early people lived have paintings on the walls.

- Some of the best examples are from Madhya Pradesh and southern Uttar Pradesh.



Figure: Bhimbhetka Rock Paintings

### Finding out about the fire

- Traces of ash show that the people at that time have invented the fire. It could have been used for many things:
- 1. A source of light, 2. To roast meat and 3. To scare away animals

**Note:** Herding is the act of bringing individual animals together into a group (herd), maintaining the group and moving the group from place to place—or any combination of those.

### Beginning of Farming and Herding

- Around 12,000 years ago, there were major changes in the climate of the world, which led to the development of grasslands in many areas. The number of animals like deer, goat, sheep and cattle increased due to the increase in grasslands.
- People start thinking about herding and rearing these animals themselves. Fishing also became important.
- After the development of grasslands, people came to know about growing wheat, rice and barley.
- People also have started taming animals and the first animal to be tamed was the wild ancestor of the dog. Later they started domestication of sheep, goats and cattle as well. In this way, men started herding.

### Beginning of a New Era

- People started living in the same place for a longer period of time to look after the plants – till the grains ripened. They used to store grains in large clay pots, wove baskets or dug pits into the ground for food and seeds.
- Animals were nurtured better now because they were the source of milk, meat, etc. as per the requirement. In other words, animals that are reared can be used as a 'store' of food.
- Earliest farmers and herders were found all over the subcontinent, the most important sites were found in the north-west, in present-day Kashmir and in east and south India.



## Names and Dates

| Period                  | Time Period                                  |
|-------------------------|--|
| The Palaeolithic Period | 2 million years ago to 12,000 years ago      |
| The Mesolithic Period   | 12,000 years ago till about 10,000 years ago |
| The Neolithic Period    | 10,000 years ago till 4500 years ago         |

## A settled life

- Traces of huts, houses were also found by archaeologists in different parts of the subcontinent. People built pit houses in Kashmir.
- Stone tools have been found from many sites. The stone tools belonging to the Neolithic age were different from that of tools of the Palaeolithic age.
- The tools of the Neolithic age were polished and given an accurate cutting edge. Some tools were made of bones that belonged to the Palaeolithic age.
- Many kinds of earthen pots have also been found. People used to store things, cook food in these pots.
- People also began weaving cloth, using different kinds of materials. For example cotton.

## Living and dying in Mehrgarh

- Mehrgarh is a Neolithic archaeological site situated in Balochistan, Pakistan. It is located near the Bolan Pass, which is one of the most important routes for Iran.
- Mehrgarh was one of the places where people learned to grow barley and wheat and rear sheep and goats for the first time in this area. In this village, many animal bones were found.
- When people die, he/she was buried with goats, which were probably meant to serve as food in the next world. So we can say that they used to believe that there is some form of life after death.

## QUESTIONS

## LEVEL-1 : MODERATE

- \_\_\_\_\_ is the name given to the process in which people grow plants and look after animals.
  - Plantation
  - Rearing
  - Herding
  - Domestication
- The art of making Pot is called
  - Poetries
  - Potteries
  - Pottery
  - Artefacts
- Earliest people began using pots for:
  - Making Food
  - Storing Food
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- Which animal was first domesticated by the earliest people?
  - Dog
  - Sheep
  - Goat
  - Elephant
- Bhimbetka caves & rock shelters are close to which river valley?
  - Ganga River Valley
  - Narmada River Valley
  - Indus River Valley
  - Son River Valley
- Consider the following statements regarding rock paintings:
  - Remnants of rock paintings have been found on the walls of the caves.
  - Earliest people use to draw on rock surfaces that depict their social and economic life.
 Select the correct answer using the code given below:
  - 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2
- Why did hunter-gatherers move from place to place?
  - In search of food
  - In search of shelters
  - Both (a) and (b)
  - None of these
- Mesolithic period falls under which period?
  - 2 million years to 12000 years ago
  - 12,000 years ago to 10,000 years ago
  - From about 10,000 years ago
  - None of these
- Why did people store grains?
  - For Food
  - To use as Seeds
  - Both (a) and (b)
  - None of these
- Where is the evidence of wheat, barley, sheep, goat and cattle found?
  - Koldihwa (UP)
  - Gufkral (Kashmir)
  - Hallur (Andhra Pradesh)
  - Mehrgarh (Pakistan)
- Where is Mehrgarh, a Neolithic archaeological site situated?
  - Pakistan
  - Tajikistan
  - Afghanistan
  - Taliban
- Which of the following is not associated with the development of grasslands?
  - Rice
  - Wheat
  - Barely
  - Apple

## LEVEL-2 : ADVANCED

- Consider the following statements regarding Hunter-Gatherers:
  - They used to move from one place to another to fight other tribes and occupy their lands.
  - They had to follow the movements of animals to hunt them.
  - They moved from season to season in search of different kinds of plants.
  - Hunter-gatherers chose to live in caves and rock shelters because they provided them protection from the rain, heat and wind.
 Select the correct answer using the code given below:
  - 1 and 2 only
  - 1, 2 and 3 only
  - 2, 3 and 4 only
  - 1, 2, 3 and 4
- The middle stone period is also known as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Mesolithic
  - Neolithic
  - Palaeolithic
  - Microliths

3. Which among the following period of the Stone Age first witnessed the domestication of animals?  
 (a) Paleolithic Age (b) Chalcolithic Age  
 (c) Neolithic Age (d) Mesolithic Age
4. Traces of ash has been found in which of the following archaeological sites?  
 (a) Caves of Bhimbetka (b) Kurnool Cave  
 (c) Koldihwa (d) Hunsgi
5. Consider the following statements regarding the stone ages?  
 1. The Palaeolithic period extends from 50,000 years ago to about 12,000 years ago.  
 2. The Palaeolithic period can be divided into lower, middle and upper Paleolithic age.  
 3. In Palaeolithic, "Palaeo" means Age and "Lithos" means Stone.  
 Select the correct answer using the code given below:  
 (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3 only  
 (c) 2 only (d) 2 and 3 only
6. In the context of the new changes that came from climatic change in the Middle Ages, consider the following statements:  
 1. In many areas, increasing temperature led to the development of grasslands.  
 2. Fishing also became important.  
 3. Grains like wheat, barley and rice grew naturally.  
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 only
7. In the context of Bhimbhetka Caves, consider the following statements:  
 1. The Bhimbhetka caves are located in the Sindhudurg District of Maharashtra.  
 2. The Bhimbhetka Cave is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.  
 3. The Bhimbetka rock shelters were discovered by V S Wakankar in 1957.  
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only  
 (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3 only
8. Consider the following statements regarding Mehrgarh:  
 1. Mehrgarh was one of the places where people learned to grow barley and wheat.  
 2. The shape of the houses at Mehrgarh was square or rectangular.  
 3. Mehrgarh people used to believe that there is a life after death.
4. In Mehrgarh, the dead person was buried with the dog.  
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 1, 3 and 4 only  
 (c) 2 and 4 only (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

**LEVEL-3 : PREVIOUS YEARS**

1. Consider the following statements regarding the earliest Palaeolithic tools: [UPSC]  
 1. The beginning of the use of tools by humans has been a unique phenomenon and may be said to have laid the foundation of the science of the use of tools and machines for the aid of humans in their various endeavours.  
 2. The regular use of tools, beginning 2.6 m.y. ago in East Africa is well attested and accompanies many earlier and later hominid fossils.  
 3. In India, no human fossils have been found associated with Stone Age tools but we do have some idea of the antiquity of tools from the geological datings.  
 Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only  
 (c) 2 and 3 only (d) All of the above
2. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched? [UPSC]  
 (a) Lower Palaeolithic - Tools made on flakes and blades  
 (b) Middle Palaeolithic - Tools made on flakes  
 (c) Upper Palaeolithic - Handaxe and cleaver industries  
 (d) All of the above
3. Which of the following sites belongs to the Lower Palaeolithic cultures? [UPSC CDS]  
 (a) Pahalgam (b) Belan valley  
 (c) Bhimbetka (d) All of the above
4. Which of the following archaeological sites has evidence of pit-dwellings? [SSC]  
 (a) Burzahom (b) Mehrgarh  
 (c) Rana Ghundai (d) Palavoy
5. The rock paintings found at Bhimbetka generally belong to which of the following periods? [SSC]  
 (a) Paleolithic (b) Mesolithic  
 (c) Microlithic (d) Neolithic

**ANSWERS WITH EXPLANATION****LEVEL-1 : MODERATE**

1. **Option (d) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Domestication is the adaptation of an animal from a wild or natural state (as by selective breeding) to life in close association with humans. It is the process of adapting wild plants and animals for human use. Domestic species are raised for food,

work, clothing, medicine and many other uses. Domesticated plants and animals must be raised and cared by humans. Domesticated species are not wild.

2. **Option (c) is correct**  
**Explanation:** Pottery is the process and the products of forming vessels and other objects with clay and other ceramic materials, which are fired at high temperatures to give them a hard and durable form. Major types include earthenware, stoneware and porcelain.

3. **Option (c) is correct**

**Explanation:** People began using pots for cooking and storing food, especially grains like rice, wheat and lentils that now became an important part of the diet.

4. **Option (a) is correct**

**Explanation:** People started taming animals by leaving food for them near their shelters. The first animal to be tamed was the wild ancestor of the dog. Animals such as sheep, goat, cattle and also the pig lived in herds and most of them ate grass.

5. **Option (b) is correct**

**Explanation:** Bhimbetka is an old site with caves and rock shelters. People chose these natural caves because they provided shelter from the rain, heat and wind. These rock shelters are close to the Narmada valley.

6. **Option (c) is correct**

**Explanation:** Earliest people used to draw images and symbols on rock surfaces. Many of the caves in which these early people lived have paintings on the walls.

In India, remnants of rock paintings have been found on the walls of caves situated in several districts of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar and Uttarakhand.

7. **Option (c) is correct**

**Explanation:** Hunter-gatherers travelled from place to place to find food, shelters, water etc.

If they stayed at one place for a long time, they would have eaten up all the available plant and animal resources. Therefore, they went to another place for more food.

In search of water, people travelled from place to place. Water is necessary for survival.

8. **Option (b) is correct**

**Explanation:** The period when we find environmental changes, beginning about 12,000 years ago till about 10,000 years ago is called the Mesolithic Age (middle stone). Stone tools found during this period are generally tiny and are called microliths.

9. **Option (c) is correct**

**Explanation:** People had to stay in the same place for a long time looking after the plants, watering, weeding, driving away animals and birds – till the grain ripened. Then they start thinking of storing the grain for food and seeds. They began making large clay pots, wove baskets or dug pits into the ground.

10. **Option (d) is correct**

**Explanation:** Mehrgarh is a Neolithic archaeological site situated in Balochistan, Pakistan. It is located near the Bolan Pass, which is one of the most important routes for Iran.

Mehrgarh was one of the places where people learned to grow barley and wheat and rear sheep and goats for the first time in this area.

11. **Option (a) is correct**

**Explanation:** Mehrgarh is a Neolithic archaeological site situated in Balochistan, Pakistan. It is located near the Bolan Pass, which is one of the most important routes into Iran.

12. **Option (c) is correct**

**Explanation:** Apple is not associated with development of grassland. After the development of grasslands, people came to know about growing wheat, rice and barley.

## LEVEL-2 : ADVANCED

1. **Option (c) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Earliest people known as Hunter-Gatherers used to move from place to place to find food, shelter, water etc. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Animals move from place to place so these people had to follow their movements for hunting purposes. People may have moved from season to season in search of different kinds of plants. Hence, statement 2 & 3 are correct.

Hunter-gatherers used to live in caves and rock shelters because they provided them protection from the rain, heat and wind. Hence, statement 4 is correct.

2. **Option (a) is correct**

**Explanation:** Mesolithic, also called Middle Stone Age, ancient cultural stage that existed between the Paleolithic (Old Stone Age), with its chipped stone tools and the Neolithic (New Stone Age), with its polished stone tools.

The period when we find environmental changes, beginning about 12,000 years ago till about 10,000 years ago is called the Mesolithic Age (middle stone).

3. **Option (d) is correct**

**Explanation:** Mesolithic Age falls roughly from 9000 B.C. to 4000 B.C. It was the transitional phase between the Paleolithic Age and Neolithic Age.

Although Mesolithic men were still dependent largely on hunting, now they began taming the animals like dog, sheep, goat, cow-ox, buffalo, wild horse, etc.

The earliest evidence of the taming of animals was found from Adamgarh of Madhya Pradesh and Baghore of Rajasthan. They are Mesolithic sites. Hence, Option 4 is correct.

4. **Option (b) is correct**

**Explanation:** Traces of ash have been found in the Kurnool caves. This suggests that people in the past used fire. This suggests that people were familiar with the use of fire. Fire could have been used for many things: as a source of light, to roast meat and to scare away animals.

5. **Option (c) is correct**

**Explanation:** The Palaeolithic period extends from 2 million years ago to about 12,000 years ago. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

This long stretch of time is divided into the Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The Palaeolithic comes from two Greek words, 'palaeo', meaning old and 'lithos', meaning stone. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

**6. Option (d) is correct**

**Explanation:** All the above three statements are correct:

Around 12,000 years ago, there were major changes in the climate of the world, with a shift to relatively warm conditions. In many areas, this led to the development of grasslands.

This in turn led to an increase in the number of deer, antelope, goat, sheep and cattle, i.e. animals that survived on grass. Fishing also became important.

This was also a time when several grain bearing grasses, including wheat, barley and rice grew naturally in different parts of the subcontinent.

Men, women and children probably collected these grains as food and learnt where they grew and when they ripened.

**7. Option (c) is correct**

**Explanation:** The Bhimbetka rock shelters are an archaeological site in central India that spans the Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods, as well as the historic period.

It is located in the Raisen District in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh about 45 kilometres (28 mi) south-east of Bhopal. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that consists of seven hills and over 750 rock shelters distributed over 10 km (6.2 mi). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

These caves were discovered in 1957 by Dr. V. S. Wakankar, a well-known archaeologist. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

**8. Option (a) is correct**

**Explanation:** Mehrgarh was one of the places where people learnt to grow barley and wheat and rear sheep and goats for the first time in this area. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

At this village, many animal bones were found. Other finds at Mehrgarh include remains of square or rectangular houses. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

When people die, their relatives and friends pay respect to them. The dead person was buried with goats, which were probably meant to serve as food in the next world. Hence, statement 3 is correct but statement 4 is not correct.

### LEVEL-3 : PREVIOUS YEARS

**1. Option (d) is correct.**

**Explanation:** The beginning of the use of tools by the humans has been a unique phenomenon and may be said to have laid the foundation of science of use of tools and machines for the aid of humans in their various endeavour.

The regular use of tools, beginning 2.6 m.y. ago in east Africa is well attested and accompanies many earlier and later hominid fossils. In case of Indonesia several hominid remains have recently been dated between 1.8 and 1.6 m.y.

In China the early stone tools are associated with human fossils dated between 1.7 and 1.9 m.y. In India, unfortunately, no human fossils have been found associated with Stone Age tools but we do have some idea of the antiquity of tools from the geological datings.

**2. Option (c) is correct**

**Explanation:** The Palaeolithic Age in India is divided into three phases, based on tool technology. These phases are:

1. Lower Palaeolithic- Handaxe and cleaver industries
2. Middle Palaeolithic- Tools made on flakes
3. Upper Palaeolithic- Tools made on flakes and blades

**3. Option (d) is correct**

**Explanation:** Some of the important sites of Lower Palaeolithic cultures are Pahalgam in Kashmir, Belan valley in Allahabad district (Uttar Pradesh) Bhimbetka and Adamgarh in Hoshangabad district, (Madhya Pradesh), Singi Talav in Nagaur district (Rajasthan), Nevasa in Ahmadnagar district (Maharashtra), Hunsgi in Gulbarga district (in Karnataka) and the famous site of Attirampakkam (Tamil Nadu).

**4. Option (a) is correct**

**Explanation:** Burzahom archaeological sites have evidence of pit-dwellings. It is located in the Kashmir Valley of the Indian state Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the archeological excavations, there were four phases of cultural significance between 3000 BC to 1000 B.C.

The Burzahom site revealed the transition from the subterranean and ground-level housing features of the Neolithic people to the mudbrick structures of the Megalithic people.

**5. Option (b) is correct**

**Explanation:** The Rock paintings found at Bhimbetka (near Bhopal) belonging generally to the Mesolithic period indicate the artistic taste of the people.



## The Story of Harappa

- Harappa was one of the oldest cities and the first city to be discovered in the subcontinent.
- Harappa was a modern city located in what is now Pakistan. In 1856, the famous East India Company accidentally discovered Harappa while building a railway.
- At first, the workers thought it was the ruins of an ordinary broken city and began to use bricks for construction projects.
- About eighty years ago, the archaeologists realized that it was not one of the ordinary ruins and realised that this was one of the oldest cities in the subcontinent. These cities developed about 4700 years ago.

## Harappa -The Earliest Civilization

- The most striking feature of the Harappan cities is their town planning. The Harappan city was divided into 2 parts:
  1. **Citadel:** Citadel was placed in the west of the city, which was smaller in size but higher than the lower town.
  2. **Lower Town:** Lower town was placed on the east and was larger in size than the citadel.
- Baked bricks were used to build walls and the bricks were laid in an interlocking pattern that made the walls strong.
- The famous Great Bath was found in Mohenjo-Daro, one of the earliest cities of Harappan civilization.
  1. Important people took a dip in this tank on special occasions.
  2. There were steps leading down to it from two sides, there were rooms on all sides.
  3. Water was probably brought in from a well and drained out after use.
- Kalibangan and Lothal had fire altars, where sacrifices may have been performed. Mohenjo-Daro, Harappa and Lothal had elaborate store houses.
- Many of these cities had covered drains. Smaller drains were connected to bigger drains.
- Houses were either one or two storeys high with a separate bathing area and some had wells to supply water.
- All three — houses, drains and streets — were probably planned and built at the same time.

## Life in Harappa

- **Rulers:** They were the leaders of the place and they sent people to faraway lands to get precious stones, metals and other important things.
- **Scribes:** They were the ones who knew writings and helped to prepare the seals.

## New Crafts in the city

- There were men and women, crafts persons who used to make all kinds of things.
- Many terracotta toys have been found in Harappan cities, which show that children must have played with these.
- Most of the objects that were made and found in Harappan cities were of stone, shell and metal, including copper, bronze, gold and silver.
- Copper and bronze were used to make tools, weapons, ornaments and vessels.
- Gold and silver were used to make ornaments and vessels.
- The Harappan people made seals by using stones of rectangular shapes that had pictures of animals on them.
- The Harappan people made seals by using stones of rectangular shapes that had pictures of animals on them.



**Figure: Terracotta Toys**



**Figure: Indus Valley Seals**

## Raw Materials

- Raw materials are substances that are either found naturally or produced by farmers or herders. Raw materials are processed to produce finished goods.
- The Harappans probably got copper from present-day Rajasthan and from Oman in West Asia.
- Tin, which was mixed with copper to produce bronze, had been brought from present-day Afghanistan and Iran.
- Gold had been brought from present-day Karnataka and precious stones from present-day Gujarat, Iran and Afghanistan.

## Food habits of the people

- Harappans grew wheat, barley, pulses, peas, rice, sesame, linseed and mustard.
- The plough was used to dig the earth for turning the soil and planting seeds.
- The water was stored and supplied to the fields when the plants were growing.
- The Harappans reared cattle, sheep, goat and buffalo.
- Harappan people also grew various fruits like berries and fishing as well as they hunted for wild animals like antelopes.



- Harappans grew wheat, barley, pulses, peas, rice, sesame, linseed and mustard. They also developed some new tools known as plough and was used to dig earth for planting the seeds and turning the soil.

### A Closer look at the Harappan Sites - Dholavira and Lothal

#### Dholavira

- The city of Dholavira was excavated in 1990 by RS Bisht and his team.
- This city had fresh water and fertile soil.
- There was also a large open area in the settlement, where public ceremonies were held.
- Dholavira was divided into three parts and each part was surrounded by massive stone walls, with entrances through gateways.
- Large letters of the Harappan script were carved out of white stone and inlaid in wood.

#### Lothal

- The city of Lothal stood beside a tributary of the Sabarmati, in Gujarat, close to the Gulf of Khambat.
- The raw materials such as semi-precious stones were easily available in the city.

- Lothal is the only site that has an old brick dockyard. The dockyard is surrounded by brick walls to protect them from heavy floods.
- Lothal was the city where the first tidal port was found.

### The mystery behind the end of earliest civilization

- Around 3900 years ago we find the beginning of a major change.
- People stopped living in many of the cities. Writings, seals and weights were no longer used.
- Raw materials brought from long distances became rare.
- In Mohenjo-Daro, we found that garbage was piled up on the streets, the drainage system broke down and new, less impressive houses were built, even over the streets.
- The cause for the breakdown of the Indus Valley Civilization is not yet known by anyone. Many scholars came up with different reasons for the breakdown.
- Some scholars suggest that the rivers dried up. Others suggest that there was deforestation. In some areas there were floods. But none of these reasons can explain the end of all the cities.

## QUESTIONS

### LEVEL-1 : MODERATE

- When did Harappan cities develop?
  - About 4,700 years ago
  - About 3,700 years ago
  - About 2,700 years ago
  - About 1,700 years ago
- A place where surplus grain was stored was known as:
  - Storage
  - Warehouse
  - Basket
  - Granaries
- Which of the following was the first city to be discovered in the Indian subcontinent?
  - Harappa
  - Mohenjo-daro
  - Lothal
  - Sotka Koh
- What was the color of the Faience?
  - Red
  - Blue or Sea Green
  - Yellow
  - Black
- How many storeys of houses were generally found in Harappan cities?
  - One or two storeys
  - Four to five storeys
  - Multi storeys
  - None of these
- Great bath have been found at which site of Harappan Civilization?
  - Harappa
  - Dholavira
  - Lothal
  - Mohenjo-Daro
- In the context of the characteristics of the cities of Harappa civilization, which of the following statements is not correct?
  - Many of these cities were divided into two or more parts.
  - The walls of raw bricks were built around each part.

- Archaeologists called the lower part of the city as the lower-town and the higher part as citadel.
  - Usually, the western was smaller but higher and the eastern was larger but lower.
- Who supplied food to craft persons, scribes and rulers in the cities?
    - Local citizens
    - Farmers and herders
    - Post men
    - All of these
  - What was used to dig the earth for turning the soil and planting seeds?
    - Digger
    - Axe
    - Plough
    - Plaster
  - A Dockyard was found in which of the following Harappan sites?
    - Lothal
    - Harappa
    - Chanhudado
    - Mohenjo-Daro
  - Where is Mehrgarh located today?
    - Uttar Pradesh
    - Andhra Pradesh
    - Pakistan
    - China

### LEVEL-2 : ADVANCED

- Match the following:

|      |              |                               |
|------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| I.   | Mohenjo-Daro | Great Bath                    |
| II.  | Kalibangan   | Port Town                     |
| III. | Lothal       | Fire Altars                   |
| IV.  | Dholavira    | City divided into three parts |

Choose the incorrect pair as given above:

- I only
  - II only
  - III & IV only
  - None of the above
- Consider the following statements:
    - Harappa was the first city to be discovered in the subcontinent.

2. Harappa was one of the oldest cities in the subcontinent, which archaeologists found 80 years ago.
3. The part to the east, which was bigger and higher, was called the citadel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
3. Harappan cities were found in which of the following given states?
    1. Sind (Pakistan) 2. Gujarat (India)
    3. Rajasthan (India) 4. Haryana (India)
    5. Punjab (India)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 3 and 4 only  
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
4. In the context of beads and stone weights, consider the following statements:
    1. Carnelian stones were used in the construction of beads.
    2. Limestone was commonly used to make weights.
 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. Which among the following is the most unique feature of Dholavira site of the Indus Valley Civilization?
    - (a) Its cities were horizontally divided in multiple parts
    - (b) Its cities were unevenly divided
    - (c) Its cities were divided into 3 parts
    - (d) None of these
  6. Consider the following statements:
    1. Copper and bronze were only used to make tools and weapons.
    2. Gold and silver were used to make ornaments and vessels.
    3. The Harappans also made pots with beautiful black designs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
7. In the context of the imported raw materials in the Harappan civilization; match List 1 with the List 2.

| List 1 (Raw Material) |                | List 2 (Location) |             |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| A.                    | Copper         | 1.                | Gujarat     |
| B.                    | Tin            | 2.                | Afghanistan |
| C.                    | Gold           | 3.                | Rajasthan   |
| D.                    | Precious Stone | 4.                | Karnataka   |

Choose the correct code:

- (a) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1 (b) A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1  
(c) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4 (d) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4
8. In the context of the villages of Harappan period, which of the following statements is not correct?
    - (a) Farmers and herders lived in villages.

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- (b) The Harappans grew wheat, barley, pulses, peas, rice, sesame, linseed and mustard.  
(c) Using the plough for tilling the fields was a new thing of the time.  
(d) All Harappan cities received sufficient water for irrigation.
9. Which of the following was/were the cause/s of decline of Harappan civilization?
    1. River drying up 2. Deforestation
    3. Rulers losing control
 Choose the correct answer from the code given below:  
 (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only  
(c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
  10. With respect to the town planning in Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements:
    1. Harappans cities were famous for their remarkable town planning and an excellent system of drainage and sanitation.
    2. All the Harappan Cities had Citadel and a lower town.
    3. The houses in the cities were made up by burnt bricks and they followed the grid system.
    4. The drainage system of Mohenjo-Daro was very impressive.
 Choose the correct answer from the code given below:  
 (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1, 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only (d) All of the above

### LEVEL-3 : PREVIOUS YEARS

1. Which one of the following ancient towns is well known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelising water into connected reservoirs? [UPSC]
  - (a) Dholavira (b) Kalibangan
  - (c) Rakhigarhi (d) Ropar
2. Which one of the following is not a Harappan site? [UPSC]
  - (a) Chanhudaro (b) KotDiji
  - (c) Sohgauna (d) Desalpur
3. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the people of the Indus Valley Civilization? [UPSC]
  1. They possessed great palaces and temples
  2. They worshipped both male and female deities
  3. They employed horse-drawn chariots
 Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:  
 (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 3  
(d) None of the statements given above is correct
4. Regarding the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements: [UPSC]

- It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
  - During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Indus valley civilization flourished in which period?  
[SSC]  
(a) 2600 – 1900 B.C. (b) 1000 – 750 B.C.  
(c) 3500 – 2500 B.C. (d) 1600 – 1000 B.C.
  - Which ancient city of Indus-Valley Civilization was famous for its dock yard?  
[SSC]  
(a) Dholavira (b) Lothal  
(c) Chanhudaro (d) Mohenjo-daro

## ANSWERS WITH EXPLANATION

### LEVEL-1 : MODERATE

- Option (a) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** As this was the first city to be discovered, all other sites from where similar buildings (and other things) were found were described as Harappan. These cities developed about 4700 years ago. Very often, old buildings are pulled down to make way for new construction.
- Option (d) is correct**  
**Explanation:** Granaries are often built above the ground to keep the stored food away from mice and other animals. Granaries were found at several sites such as Harappa, Lothal and Mohenjo-daro.
- Option (a) is correct**  
**Explanation:** About eighty years ago, archaeologists found the site of Harappa and realized that this was one of the oldest cities in the subcontinent. As this was the first city to be discovered, all other sites from where similar buildings (and other things) were found were described as Harappan. These cities developed about 4700 years ago.
- Option (b) is correct**  
**Explanation:** Faience is a material that is artificially produced. It is a gum which is used to shape sand or powdered quartz into an object. It is used to make beads, bangles, earrings and tiny vessels. The colours of the glaze were usually blue or sea green.
- Option (a) is correct**  
**Explanation:** In Harappan cities, the houses were either one or two storeys high, with rooms built around a courtyard. Most houses had a separate bathing area and some had wells to supply water.
- Option (d) is correct**  
**Explanation:** In Mohenjo-Daro, a very special tank, which archaeologists call the Great Bath, was built in this area. This was lined with bricks, coated with plaster and made water-tight with a layer of natural tar. Important people took a dip in this tank on special occasions.
- Option (b) is correct**  
**Explanation:** Statement (a) (c) (d) are correct, but the statement (b) is not correct.  
The bricks were so well made that they have lasted for thousands of years.  
The bricks were laid in an interlocking pattern and that made the walls strong.

### 8. Option (b) is correct

**Explanation:** While many people lived in the cities, others living in the countryside grew crops and reared animals. These farmers and herders supplied food to craftsmen, scribes and rulers in the cities.

### 9. Option (c) is correct

**Explanation:** A new tool, the plough, was used to dig the earth for turning the soil and planting seeds. While real ploughs, which were probably made of wood, have not survived, toy models have been found.

### 10. Option (a) is correct

**Explanation:** Lothal is believed to be at least 5,000 years old and was the only port-town of the Indus Valley Civilization. Lothal's dock connected the city to the Sabarmati River which was an important trade route between Harappan cities in Sindh (now in Pakistan) and the peninsula of Saurashtra.

### 11. Option (c) is correct

**Explanation:** Mehrgarh is a Neolithic archaeological site situated on the Kacchi Plain of Balochistan in Pakistan.

### LEVEL-2 : ADVANCED

### 1. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** Pair 1, 3 and 4 is correct but Pair 2 is not correct.

The Great Bath is part of a large citadel complex that was found in the 1920s during excavations of Mohenjo-daro, one of the main centres of the Indus civilization.

The excavated site of Lothal is the only port-town of the Indus Valley Civilisation. Lothal is famous for the discovery of several ruins of the Indus Valley Civilization. Lothal is located between the Sabarmati River and its tributary Bhogavo.

At Kalibangan, fire altars have been discovered; similar to those found at Lothal which S.R. Rao thinks could have served no other purpose than a ritualistic one.

Dholavira city itself is divided into three parts — the Citadel, the Middletown and the Lower town.

### 2. Option (c) is correct

**Explanation:** About eighty years ago, archaeologists found the site and realised that this was one of the oldest cities in the subcontinent. As this was the

first city to be discovered, all other sites from where similar buildings (and other things) were found were described as Harappan. Hence, statement 1 and 2 are correct.

Many of Harappan cities were divided into two or more parts. Usually, the part to the west was smaller but higher. Archaeologists describe this as the citadel. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

**3. Option (d) is correct**

**Explanation:** Harappan Civilization was found in Punjab and Sind in Pakistan and in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab in India. Archaeologists have found a set of unique objects in almost all these cities: red pottery painted with designs in black, stone weights, seals, special beads, copper tools and long stone blades.

**4. Option (a) is correct**

**Explanation:** A large variety of material was used to make beads. It included red colour stone like carnelian, jasper, crystal, quartz etc.

Stone weights were made of chert, a kind of stone. These were probably used to weigh precious stones or metals.

**5. Option (c) is correct**

**Explanation:** Dholavira, the Harappan City in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat has become the 40<sup>th</sup> site from India to get the UNESCO's World Heritage tag. The archaeological site of a Harappan-era city, was added to the heritage site list on July 27<sup>th</sup> 2021. Archaeologist Jagat Pati Joshi discovered Dholavira in 1968.

The town of Dholavira was divided into three parts: the Citadel, the Middletown and the Lower town.

**6. Option (c) is correct**

**Explanation:** Most of the things that have been found by archaeologists are made of stone, shell and metal, including copper, bronze, gold and silver. Copper and bronze were used to make tools, weapons, ornaments and vessels. Gold and silver were used to make ornaments and vessels. Hence statement 1 is not correct but statement 2 is correct. Gold and silver were used to make ornaments and vessels. Harappans also made stone seals. They made pots with beautiful black designs. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

**7. Option (a) is correct**

**Explanation:**

- The Harappans probably got copper from present-day Rajasthan and even from Oman in West Asia.
- Tin, which was mixed with copper to produce bronze, may have been brought from present-day Afghanistan and Iran.
- Gold could have come all the way from present-day Karnataka.
- Precious stones come from present-day Gujarat, Iran and Afghanistan

**8. Option (d) is correct**

**Explanation:** Statement (a) is correct. While many people lived in the cities, others living in the countryside grew crops and reared animals. These

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farmers and herders supplied food to crafts persons, scribes and rulers in the cities.

**Statement (b)** is correct. People from Harappa used to grow wheat, barley, pulses, peas, rice, sesame and mustard.

**Statement (c)** is correct. A new tool, the plough, was used to dig the earth for turning the soil and planting seeds. While real ploughs, which were probably made of wood, have not survived, toy models have been found.

**Statement (d)** is not correct. As this region does not receive heavy rainfall, some form of irrigation may have been used. This means that water was stored and supplied to the fields when the plants were growing.

**9. Option (d) is correct**

**Explanation:** Some scholars suggest that the rivers dried up. Others suggest that there was deforestation. This could have happened because fuel was required for baking bricks and for smelting copper ores.

Besides, grazing by large herds of cattle, sheep and goat may have destroyed the green cover. In some areas there were floods.

But none of these reasons can explain the end of all the cities.

Flooding, or a river drying up would have had an effect in only some areas.

It appears as if the rulers lost control.

**10. Option (c) is correct**

**Explanation:**

- The Harappan culture was distinguished by its system of town planning. Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro each had its own citadel or acropolis, which was possibly occupied by members of the ruling class.
- Chanhudaro is an archaeological site belonging to the post-urban Jhukar phase of Indus valley civilization. It was the only Indus city without a citadel. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Below the citadel in each city, lay a lower town containing brick houses, which were inhabited by the common people.
- The remarkable thing about the arrangement of the houses in the cities is that they followed the grid system.
- The use of burnt bricks in the Harappan cities is remarkable, because in the contemporary buildings of Egypt mainly dried bricks were used.
- The drainage system of Mohenjo-Daro was very impressive. Hence, statement 1, 3 and 4 are correct.

**LEVEL-3 : PREVIOUS YEARS**

**1. Option (a) is correct.**

**Explanation:** The correct answer is Dholavira.

The site was in news quite recently and it is expected that you know this. Dholavira is located on Kadir Island in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.

## In the Earliest Cities

The city had an impressive and unique water harvesting and management system. It can be noted that this area receives less than 160 cm of rain every year and is very prone to droughts.

A sophisticated water management system demonstrates the ingenuity of the Dholavira people in their struggle to survive and thrive in a harsh environment.

### 2. Option (c) is correct

**Explanation:** The correct answer is Sohgauna. Sohgauna - It is not a Harappan site. It is an Ashokan era copper plate inscription written in Prakrit in the Brahmi script.

### 3. Option (b) is correct

**Explanation:** No building has been discovered at any Harappan site that can be positively identified as a temple, but the Great Bath at Mohenjo-Daro may have been used for ritual purposes. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

Clay figures of the Mother Goddess, worshipped by the people as a symbol of fertility, have been found. A seated figure of a male god, carved on a small stone seal, has also been found. The scene immediately brings to mind the traditional image of Pasupati Mahadeva. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

On the basis of the Indus seals, it can be said that a large number of animals including goats, buffaloes,

oxen, elephants, dogs and camels were domesticated. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

### 4. Option (c) is correct

**Explanation:**

- The Harappan civilization belongs to the Bronze Age civilization and Harappans knew how to make copper bronze tools.
- People of Indus valley Civilisation worshipped trees and animals such as bull, buffalo and tiger. Since religion did not dominate the scene, statement 1 is correct.
- In 1929, archaeologists recovered fragments of cotton textiles at Mohenjo-Daro. Cottonseeds founds at nearby Mehrgarh have been dated to 5000 BCE. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

### 5. Option (a) is correct

**Explanation:** The Indus Valley Civilization was a Bronze Age civilization. It started around 3300 BCE. It matured and flourished between 2600 to 1900 BCE. By 1800 BCE, the civilisation began to decline.

### 6. Option (b) is correct

**Explanation:** According to the ASI, Lothal had the world's earliest known dock, which connected the city to an ancient course of the Sabarmati River on the trade route between Harappan cities in Sindh and the peninsula of Saurashtra when the surrounding Kutch desert of today was a part of the Arabian Sea.

□□□



# 4

## WHAT BOOKS AND BURIALS TELL US

### Oldest Books in the World

- The Vedas are a large body of religious texts originating in ancient India. Composed in Vedic Sanskrit, the texts constitute the oldest layer of Sanskrit literature and the oldest scriptures of Hinduism.
- There are four types of Vedas are the Rigveda, the Samaveda, the Yajurveda and the Atharvaveda.

### The Rigveda

- Rigveda is the oldest Veda, composed around 3500 years ago. It includes more than thousand hymns, called suktas. Hymns were composed by sages (rishis). These hymns are in praise of various gods and goddesses. They are:
  1. The Agni, the god of fire.
  2. Indra, a warrior god.
  3. Soma, a plant from which a special drink was prepared.
- Most of these hymns were taught, composed and learned by the men. Women composed a few of them too.
- This is a type of literature which is taught by priests to students and was made to recite and memorize them.
- The Rigveda is in Vedic or old Sanskrit. It was recited by the people and not just read. Written scripts were printed less than 100 years ago.

### How do Historians Study Rigveda?

- Some of the hymns were found in the form of dialogue. In one such hymn, there was a conversation between Vishvamitra and two rivers (Sutlej and Beas) that were worshipped as goddesses.
- This is a page from a manuscript of the Rigveda which was found in Kashmir.
- It is now preserved in a library in Pune, Maharashtra.

### Cattle, Horses and Chariots

- There are many prayers in the Rigveda for cattle, children (especially sons) and horses.
- Horses were used in battles. Battles were fought for water, land and to capture land and people.
- There was no regular army, but there were assemblies where people met and discussed matters of war and peace. Most men took part in wars and also chose leaders.
- Wealth was kept by the leaders, some were given to the priests and the rest was distributed amongst the people.

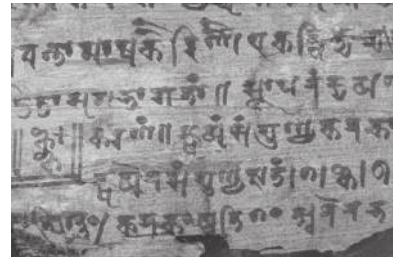


Figure: Manuscript founded in Kashmir

### People of Rigveda

- There are two groups of people mentioned in Rigveda:
- The Priest: Also called the Brahmins. They performed all the rituals of Hinduism.
- Rajas: Unlike the later kings, they did not have a palace, capital or army. They also do not levy taxes on the people of the state.
- Two words describe the people of Rigveda - Jana and Vish. (The word vaishya comes from vish.)
- The people who composed the hymns described themselves as Aryas and used to speak different languages.
- They called their opponents Dasas or Dasyus. Later, the term dasa (and the feminine dasi) came to mean slave. Slaves were women and men who were often captured in war.

### The story of the Megaliths

- The Megaliths is a large stone found in the Rigveda period and people placed it to mark the cemetery.
- This practice began more than 3000 years ago. It was influential throughout the southern part of India, the Deccan plateau and Kashmir.
- They all had a standard feature. The dead people were buried by using special pots that were called Red and Black Ware.

### Was iron used in the Harappan cities?

- A different variety of metals such as copper, gold, silver was extensively used by the Harappan metal workers. Most of the things that have been found by archaeologists are made of stone, shell and metal, including copper, bronze, gold and silver. Iron was not used in the Harappan cities. They also used gold and silver in the form ornaments and coins.

### Social Differences

- Rich people were buried with more gold beads, stone beads, copper bangles etc. Whereas poor people were buried with only a few pots.

**Importance of Burial Spots**

- People who belonged to the same family were found buried in the same place. Significant spots were to recognize the burial spot of the family members. Boulders placed or stone circles helped to serve as the signpost.

**Inamgaon**

- Occupation of the People of Inamgaon: Archaeologists have found various types of crops in the fields of Inamgaon. Some of them are sesame, peas, millets, pulses, rice, barley and wheat.

- Animals were also a source of food for the people as cuts on bones were found.
- Several fruits were consumed by the people of Inamgaon, namely dates, jamun, amla and ber.
- A special burial at Inamgaon: It is a site on the river Ghod, a tributary of the Bhima. Here, adults were buried in the ground. They were laid out straight with the head towards the north. Vessels that probably contained food and water were placed with the dead person.

**QUESTIONS****LEVEL-1 : MODERATE**

- Which of the following is the oldest Veda?  
(a) Samaveda (b) Yajurveda  
(c) Rigveda (d) Atharvaveda
- Who is the 'god of fire' according to Rigveda?  
(a) Agni (b) Indra  
(c) Soma (d) None of these
- In the Vedic age, Indra was God of:  
(a) Wind  
(b) Eternity  
(c) Rain and Thunder (warrior god)  
(d) Fire
- In which language is 'The Rigveda' written?  
(a) Vedic Sanskrit (b) Vedic Hindi  
(c) Vedic Tamil (d) None of these
- In the Rigveda the term Dasas and Dasyus refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Robbers (b) Tribals  
(c) Non-Aryans (d) Menials
- Consider the following statements about Rigveda:  
1. The oldest Veda is the Rigveda, composed about 3500 years ago.  
2. The Rigveda includes more than a thousand hymns, called suktas or well said lines. These hymns are in praise of various Raja and Kings.  
Which of the above statement is/are correct?  
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Inamgaon is situated on which of the following river?  
(a) Son (b) Narmada  
(c) Bhima (d) Ghod
- Who among the following was an expert in Medicine?  
(a) Banabhatta (b) Ashvaghosha  
(c) Charaka (d) Satakarni
- Agriculture and \_\_\_\_\_ were the main occupations of Aryans.  
(a) Jewellery making (b) Cattle-rearing  
(c) Metal-work (d) Pottery making
- On which barks was the Rig-Veda written?  
(a) Neem Bark (b) Cinkona Bark  
(c) Tulsi Bark (d) Birch Bark
- The evidence of which fruits were found in Inamgaon  
(a) Ber, Amla, Jamun (b) Mango  
(c) Apple (d) All of these

- When the dead body was buried with gold beads it means that the dead man was \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) rich man (b) poor man  
(c) chief (d) follower

**LEVEL-2 : ADVANCED**

- Match the columns:

| List 1 |          | List 2 |                 |
|--------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| A      | Sukta    | 1      | Stone Boulder   |
| B      | Chariots | 2      | Sacrifice       |
| C      | Yajna    | 3      | Well Said lines |
| D      | Dasa     | 4      | Used in Battles |
| E      | Megalith | 5      | Slave           |

- |     |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
|     | A | B | C | D | E |
| (a) | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| (b) | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| (c) | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| (d) | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
- In the context of Rig Veda, consider the following statements:  
1. All the Suktas in Rig Veda were composed by men.  
2. The language of Rig Veda is called Sanskrit or Vedic Sanskrit  
3. The Rigveda was recited and heard rather than read.  
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
  - What did the Aryas call their opponents?  
(a) Shatru (b) Dushman  
(c) Ari (d) Dasyus
  - Which of the following evidence indicates underground megalithic burials?  
1. Circle of stone boulders  
2. Single large stone  
3. Large pops of stones  
Select the correct answer using the code given below:  
(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
  - Consider the following statements:  
1. Battles were fought for land, water and to capture people and cattle.

## LEVEL-3 : PREVIOUS YEARS

2. Horses were used in battles.  
3. Rigvedic people used a large permanent standing army to fight battles.  
Select the correct answer using the code given below:  
(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
6. All the burials have some common features. Generally the dead were buried in which of the following distinctive pots?  
(a) Green and Blue ware  
(b) Golden ware  
(c) Black and Red ware  
(d) Brown ware
7. In the context of the megaliths, which of the following statements is/are not correct?  
(a) The finds suggest that there was some difference in status amongst the people who were buried.  
(b) Many megaliths contain more than one skeleton indicating that they belong to the same family.  
(c) Stone circles or boulders placed on the surface probably served as signposts to find the burial site, so that people could return to the same place whenever they wanted to.  
(d) The bodies of those who died later were brought into the grave through the death holes.
8. Which of the following subjects does The 'Charaka Samhita' deal with?  
(a) Astrology (b) Grammar  
(c) Medicine (d) Mathematics
9. With respect to Inamgaon, consider the following statements:  
1. Inamgaon is situated on the river Ghod, a tributary of the Bhima.  
2. The adults were generally buried in the ground, laid out straight, with the head towards the north.  
3. Vessels that probably contained food and water were placed with the dead.  
Select the correct answer using the code given below:  
(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
10. There was groups in terms of work in Rigvedic society, among these groups, which group used to perform rituals?  
(a) Raja (b) Priest  
(c) Jana (d) Vaishya
1. With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct? [UPSC]  
1. Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.  
2. Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.  
3. Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal.  
Select the correct answer using the code given below:  
(a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
2. The chief opponents of the Aryans were the indigenous people of non-Aryan origin known as Panis and Dasas or Dasyus. The factor which enabled the Aryans to emerge victorious in the struggle against the indigenous tribes was: [UPSC]  
(a) Lack of unity among the indigenous tribes  
(b) Better organization among the Aryans  
(c) Superior military equipment of the Aryans  
(d) Cultural superiority
3. Which of the following Rivers is not mentioned in Rig Veda? [SSC]  
(a) Ganga (b) Yamuna  
(c) Saraswati (d) Narmada
4. Which of the following statements is NOT correct about the Rigveda? [SI]  
(a) Rigveda mentions Varna  
(b) Slavery was not mentioned in Rigveda  
(c) Sabha the assembly was mentioned in Rigveda  
(d) Rajan occurs many times in Rigveda
5. The crop which was not known to Vedic people was: [SSC]  
(a) Barley (b) Wheat  
(c) Rice (d) Tobacco
6. Which of the following Vedas provides information about the civilization of the Early Vedic Age? [SSC]  
(a) Rigveda (b) Yajurveda  
(c) Atharvaveda (d) Samaveda

## ANSWERS WITH EXPLANATION

## LEVEL-1 : MODERATE

1. **Option (c) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** The oldest Veda is Rigveda, composed about 3500 years ago. The Rigveda includes more than a thousand hymns, called suktas or "well-said lines". These hymns are in praise of various gods and goddesses.
2. **Option (a) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** Agni, the God of Fire, is one of the most prominent of the deities of the Vedas. Fire is central to all Vedic rituals. All the offerings in the Vedic sacrifices are invariably offered to Agni and through him to other gods. Agni is thus the primary recipient of all Vedic sacrifices.
3. **Option (c) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** The time period of Vedic age is 1500BC-1100BC. During this age, Indra was the God of Rain and Thunder (warrior god). Indra was the most important god in the Vedic religion and he later became a major figure in Hindu Dharma and an important deity in Buddhism and Chinese tradition.
4. **Option (a) is correct.**  
**Explanation:** The Rig Veda is the earliest of the four Vedas and one of the most important texts of the Hindu tradition. It is a large collection of hymns in praise of the gods, which are chanted in various

rituals. They were composed in an archaic language named Vedic that gradually evolved into classical Sanskrit.

5. **Option (c) is correct.**

**Explanation:** The Rigveda contains accounts of conflicts between the Aryas and the Dasas and Dasyus. It describes Dasas and Dasyus as people who do not perform sacrifices (akratu) or obey the commandments of gods (avrata).

Dasas and Dasyus were early Indo-Aryan immigrants who arrived into the subcontinent before the Vedic Aryans.

6. **Option (a) is correct.**

**Explanation:** There are four Vedas: the Rig Veda, the Sama Veda, the Yajur Veda and the Atharva Veda. Of these, the Rig Veda is the oldest and was composed about 3500 years ago.

The Rigveda includes more than a thousand hymns, called sukta or "well-said lines". These hymns are in praise of various gods and goddesses. Three gods are especially important: Agni, the god of fire; Indra, a warrior god; and Soma, a plant from which a special drink was prepared. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

7. **Option (d) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Inamgaon is a post-Harappan agrarian village and archaeological site located in Maharashtra, western India. Situated along the right bank of the Ghod River. It is considered to be the regional center of the Bhima Valley.

8. **Option (c) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Charak was one of the principal contributors to the ancient art and science of Ayurveda, a system of medicine and lifestyle developed in Ancient India. Charaka has been identified as a native of Kashmir. He is well known as the "father of medicine".

9. **Option (b) is correct.**

**Explanation:** The Aryans were essentially pastoral people. Their main occupation was cattle rearing.

10. **Option (d) is correct.**

**Explanation:** One manuscript was written on birch bark in ancient *Sharada* script while the remaining 29 manuscripts were written in *Devanagari* script. The oldest manuscript was dated back to 1464 A D and the manuscripts had several unique features in terms of scripts, accentuation marks and support material use. Birch bark is the bark of Paper Birch Tree and was used as a writing material from prehistoric times.

11. **Option (a) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Several fruits were consumed by the people of Inamgaon, namely dates, Jamun amla and ber.

12. **Option (a) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Rich people were buried with more gold beads, stone beads, copper bangles etc. Whereas poor people were buried with only a few pots

## LEVEL-2 : ADVANCED

1. **Option (b) is correct.**

**Explanation:**

| List 1 |          | List 2 |                 |
|--------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| A.     | Suktas   | 3.     | Well Said lines |
| B.     | Chariots | 4.     | Used in Battles |
| B.     | Yajna    | 2.     | Sacrifice       |
| C.     | Dasa     | 5.     | Slave           |
| D.     | Megalith | 1.     | Stone Boulder   |

2. **Option (c) is correct.**

**Explanation:**

Statement 1 is not correct because these hymns were composed by sages (Rishis). Priests taught students to recite and memorize each syllable, word and sentence, bit by bit, with great care.

Most of the hymns were composed, taught and learned by men. A few were composed by women.

The Rigveda is in old or Vedic Sanskrit, which is different from the Sanskrit you learn in school these days. The books we use are written and printed. The Rigveda was recited and heard rather than read.

It was written down several centuries after it was first composed and printed less than 200 years ago.

3. **Option (d) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Sometimes, the people who composed the hymns described themselves as Aryas and called their opponents Dasas or Dasyus. These were people who did not perform sacrifices and probably spoke different languages. Later, the term dasa (and the feminine dasi) came to known as slave.

4. **Option (b) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Sometimes, archaeologists find a circle of stone boulders or a single large stone standing on the ground. These are the only indications that there are burials beneath.

5. **Option (a) is correct.**

**Explanation:** There are many prayers in the Rig-Veda for cattle, children (especially sons) and horses.

- Horses were used in battles.
- Battles were fought for land, water and to capture people and cattle. There was no regular army, but there were assemblies where people met and discussed matters of war and peace. Most men took part in wars and also choose leaders.
- Wealth was kept by the leaders, some were given to the priests and the rest was distributed amongst the people.

6. **Option (c) is correct.**

**Explanation:** All these burials have some common features. Generally, the dead were buried with distinctive pots, which are called Black and Red Ware. Also, tools and weapons of iron and sometimes, skeletons of horses, horse equipment and ornaments of stone and gold are found with the burials.

7. **Option (d) is correct.**

**Explanation:**

Statement (a) is correct because those finds suggest that there was some difference in status amongst



the people who were buried. Some were rich, others poor, some chiefs, others followers.

Statement (b) is correct because sometimes, megaliths contain more than one skeleton. These indicate that people, perhaps belonging to the same family, were buried in the same place though not at the same time. Statement (c) is correct because stone circles or boulders placed on the surface probably served as signposts to find the burial site, so that people could return to the same place whenever they wanted to. Statement (d) is not correct because the bodies of those who died later were brought into the grave through the portholes.

**8. Option (c) is correct.**

**Explanation:** About 2000 years ago, there was a famous physician named Charaka who wrote a book on medicine known as the *Charaka Samhita*.

There he states that the human body has 360 bones. This is a much larger number than the 206 bones that are recognised in modern anatomy. Charaka arrived at this figure by counting the teeth, joints and cartilage.

**9. Option (d) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Inamgaon is a site situated on the river Ghod, a tributary of the Bhima. It was occupied between 3600 and 2700 years ago.

Here, adults were generally buried in the ground, laid out straight, with the head towards the north. Sometimes burials were within the houses.

Vessels that probably contained food and water were placed with the dead.

**10. Option (b) is correct.**

**Explanation:** There are two groups who are described in terms of their work — the priests, sometimes called Brahmins, who performed various rituals and the rajas.

These rajas were not like the ones you will be learning about later. They did not have capital cities, palaces or armies nor did they collect taxes.

### LEVEL-3 : PREVIOUS YEARS

**1. Option (c) is correct.**

**Explanation:**

Rig Vedic Aryans used the cost of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them. There is also evidence of swords, arrows, bows used during Rig Vedic Aryans. Hence statement 1 is correct. Rig Vedic Aryans know gold, silver, copper, iron whereas Indus valley people knew gold, copper, bronze but they did not know iron. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

Rig Vedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal. Hence statement 3 is correct.

**2. Option (c) is correct.**

**Explanation:** The chief opponents of the Aryans were the indigenous people of non-Aryan origin known as Panis and Dasas or Dasyus. Superior military equipment helped the Aryans to emerge victorious in the struggle against the indigenous tribes.

**3. Option (d) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Narmada River is not mentioned in Rigveda.

Rivers mentioned in Rig Veda are Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Satluj, Gomati, Kurram, Ghaggar and Swat.

Rigveda is an ancient Indian text which is a collection of 1,028 Vedic Sanskrit hymns and 10,600 verses dedicated to deities.

**4. Option (b) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Rigveda is the oldest religious text in the world. It is the collection of hymns, composed around 1700 BC, contains 1,028 hymns and is divided into 10 mandalas.

The 10th Mandala of Rigveda contains the Purushasukta hymn which tells about the origin of the caste system. The Rigvedic society comprised four varnas, namely Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra.

Slavery was mentioned in Rigveda. It was mentioned in the term Dasa. Three to four verses of Rigveda mention Dasas. Hence, statement (b) is not correct.

Sabha the assembly was mentioned in Rigveda. The term Sabha means both the assembly and the assembly hall.

Rajan word was used for Kings (Raja). It occurs many times in Rigveda.

**5. Option (d) is correct.**

**Explanation:** Tobacco was not known by the people of the Vedic period. During this period, economic activity was dominated by agriculture. Agriculture was mainly done along the Ganges valley. The crops cultivated during this period were Wheat, Rice and Barley, Beans and Sesame.

**6. Option (a) is correct.**

**Explanation:** The Rig Veda is a collection of Vedic Sanskrit hymns counted among the four Hindu religious texts known as the Vedas. The Rig Veda was likely composed between roughly 1700–1100 BCE, making it one of the oldest texts of any Indo-Iranian language, one of the world's oldest religious texts.



## KINGDOMS, KINGS AND AN EARLY REPUBLIC

### How do some men become rulers?

- Usually, Rajas were chosen by Jana, the people. But before 3000 years ago, some Rajas or Rulers were chosen by performing immense sacrifices such as Ashvamedha.
- In Ashvamedha, a horse was let loose to wander freely and it was guarded by the raja's men.
- If the horse wandered into the kingdoms of other rajas and they stopped it, they had to fight. If they allowed the horse to pass, it meant that they accepted that the raja who wanted to perform the sacrifice was stronger than them.
- These rajas were then invited to the sacrifice, which was performed by specially trained priests, who were rewarded with gifts.
- The raja who organised the sacrifice was recognised as being very powerful and all the kings who attended it, brought gifts for him.
- Priests performed the rituals including the sprinkling of sacred water on the king.
- The raja was a central figure in these rituals. He often a special seat, a throne or tiger skin.
- The ordinary people, the vish or vaishya, also brought gifts. However, some people, such as those who were regarded as Shudras by the priests, were excluded from many rituals.
- The Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda belong to the later Vedic period because they were composed after the **Rigveda**. These were composed by priests and described how rituals were to be performed.
- The priests divided people into four groups, called Varnas:
  1. **First Varna:** Brahmins, they were expected to study (and teach) the Vedas, perform sacrifices and receive gifts.
  2. **Second Varna:** Kshatriyas, they were expected to fight battles and protect people.
  3. **Third Varna:** Vaishyas, they were expected to be farmers, herders and traders.
  4. **Fourth Varna:** Shudras, who had to serve the other three groups and could not perform any rituals.

### Note:

- Both the kshatriyas and the vaishyas could perform sacrifices.
- Both women and shudras were not allowed to study the Vedas.
- The priests also said that these groups were decided on the basis of birth. For example, if one's father and mother were Brahmins one would automatically become a Brahmin and so on.

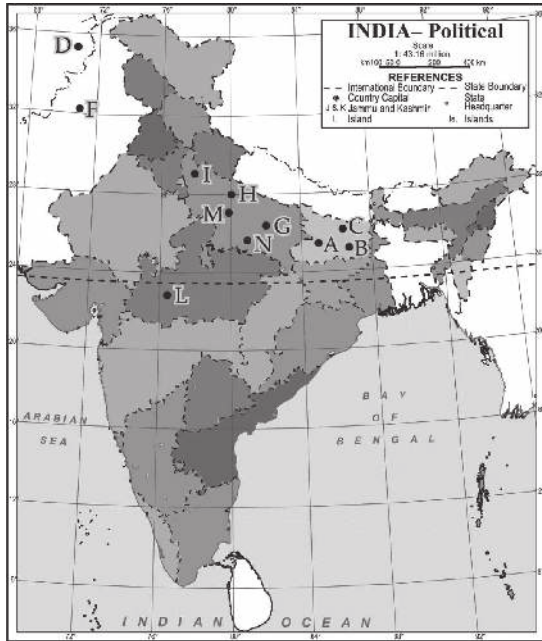
### Janapadas

- The rajas who performed big sacrifices were then recognised as being rajas of janapadas rather than Janas. The word janapada means the land where the Jana set its foot and settled down.
- Archaeologists have excavated several settlements in these Janapadas. Those settlements include the Purana Qila in Delhi, Hastinapur located near Meerut and Atranjikhhera near Etah in Uttar Pradesh.
- People used to live in huts, kept cattle and other animals; they also grew a variety of crops such as rice, wheat, barley, pulses, sugarcane, sesame and mustard.
- The people also made earthen pots of grey and red color with simple geometric patterns and lines designed on them.

### Mahajanapadas

- About 2500 years ago, some Janapadas became more important than others and were known as Mahajanapada.
- Most Mahajanapadas had a capital city, many of these were fortified which means that huge walls of wood, brick or stone were built around them.
- Forts were probably built because:
  1. People were afraid of attacks from other kings and needed protection.
  2. Some rulers wanted to show how rich and powerful they were by building large, tall and impressive walls around their cities.
  3. The land and the people living inside the fortified area could be controlled more easily by the king.
  4. Building such huge walls required a great deal of planning.
- Buildings were required a great deal of planning for its completion and involved the labour of thousands of men, women and children.

- The new rajas started maintaining armies. Soldiers were paid regular salaries and maintained by the king throughout the year.



A - Magadh    E - Gandhara    K - Matsya    O - Chedi  
 B - Anga    F - Kashi    L - Avanti    P - Asmaka  
 C - Vajji    G - Panchala    M - Sursena  
 D - Kamboja    H - Kuru    N - Vatsa

Figure: Mahajanapadas

#### Taxes in Mahajanapadas

- The rulers of the Mahajanapadas started collecting regular taxes to maintain their forts and big armies.
  1. Tariffs on crops were the most important since most people were farmers.
  2. 1/6th of the produced crops was the tax and was called the Bhaga or share.
  3. The Labour of crafts persons was also considered a form of taxation.
  4. Herders used to pay animals and animal products as taxes.
  5. Traded goods were also taxed.
  6. Hunters and Gatherers paid taxes to the Raja in the form of forest produce.

#### Changes in Agriculture

- There were two significant changes in agriculture:
  1. Growing usage of Ploughshares: A wooden ploughshare was used to turn over heavy, clayey soil easily. More grains could be produced through this.
  2. People began transplanting Paddy: Saplings were grown and planted in fields through this method. Paddy transplantation led to increased production. The slave men and women (dasas and dasis) used to do these works.

#### A Closer Look

##### Magadha

- Magadha became the most important Mahajanapada and many rivers such as the Ganga and Son flowed through Magadha.
- The rivers were important for transportation, water supplies and agriculture.
- Some parts of Magadha were also forested. Forest provided Wood for building Houses, Elephants for the army.
- Iron ore mines were also present in the area, which were used to extract iron. Iron was used to make strong tools and weapons by tapping in Magadha.
- Bimbisara and Ajatashatru were the most powerful rulers of Magadha and they used all possible ways to conquer other Janapadas.
- Rajagriha (present-day Rajgir) in Bihar was the capital of Magadha for several years. Later the capital was shifted to Pataliputra (present-day Patna).

##### Vajji

- Vajji, with its capital at Vaishali (Bihar), was under a different form of government, known as gana or sangha. In a gana there were many rulers. Each one was known as a raja.
- These rajas performed rituals together. They also met in assemblies and decided what had to be done and how, through discussion and debate.
- Gana is used for a group that has many members. Sangha means organisation or association.
- However, women, dasas or kammakaras were not allowed in the assemblies.
- Both Gautama Buddha and Mahavira belonged to these ganas or sanghas. Buddhist books contain the most vivid descriptions of life in the sanghas.
- The sanghas were tried to be conquered by the rajas of powerful kingdoms in the Indian subcontinent.
- Despite that, the sanghas lasted for a long time till about 1500 years ago.

##### Ajatashatru and the Vajjis

- Ajatashatru wanted to attack the Vajjis. He sent his minister named Vassakara to the Buddha to get his advice on the matter.
- The Buddha asked whether the Vajjis met frequently, in full assemblies. When he heard that they did, he replied that the Vajjis would continue to prosper as long as:
  1. They held full and frequent public assemblies.
  2. They met and acted together.
  3. They respected, supported and listened to elders.
  4. Vajji women were not held by force or captured.
  5. Chaityas (local shrines) were maintained in both towns and villages.
  6. Wise saints who followed different beliefs were respected and allowed to enter and leave the country freely.