

HISTORY HONS – PAPER I

Model Questions

Short Answer Type

1. What is carbon-14 dating?
2. What is the significance of Mehargarh excavation?
3. Mention two proximate causes for the decline of Harappan civilization.
4. Comment on the importance of the seals of Harappan civilization.
5. What is the economic significance of the Great Granary at Harappa?
6. Who were the Aryans? Where was their original homeland?
7. Bring out the basic principles of Sabha and Samiti.
8. What are the major points of difference between Mahayana and Hinayana forms of Buddhism?
9. What is meant by Ashtangikamarga?
10. What is subject matter of the text 'Milindapanho'?
11. Write a short note on Arthashastra.
12. Write a short note on the land grants of the Gupta period.
13. Comment briefly on the position of women in Ancient Indian society.
14. Distinguish between Stupa and Vihara.

Essay Type

1. Discuss the three geographical components of the Indian subcontinent, Is it correct to describe northern mountains as a barrier that isolates northern India from other parts of Asia?
2. Discuss the relative importance of various types of sources in reconstructing ancient Indian history.
3. Make a comparative assessment of the indigenous and foreign literary sources for writing the history of Ancient India.
4. How would you define term 'Mesolithic'? Describe the characteristic features of this culture with reference to the different regions of their occurrence.
5. Give a brief account of the Neolithic cultures in India, highlighting its regional features.
6. Discuss the origin of the Harappan civilization in the light of recent explorations and excavations.
7. What were the main stages of in the growth of the Harappan civilization? Identify each of these with reference to its relevant sites.
8. How were the Harappan cities planned? Describe its salient features.
9. In what ways was Harappan culture linked with its neighboring civilizations? What were its lasting contributions?
10. Write a note on he various aspects of continuity of the Harappan tradition even after the decline of its urban phase,

11. Explicate various theories concerning the Aryan problem and assess their significance in Indian historiography.
12. Do you think that the eastward expansion of the Aryans acted as a turning point in the history of India?
13. In what ways did the later Vedic polity differ from the Rig-vedic polity? Did the performance of sacrifices like Rajasuya and Asvamedha have any bearing on the later Vedic polity?
14. Explicate social economic and religious background to the rise of protestant religious movements in India.
15. Assess the significance of Jainism and Buddhism as protestant movements.
16. Trace the growth of sixteen Mahajanapadas indicating their geographical locations. Briefly indicate basic patterns of governance of the janapadas.
17. How was Magadha able to dominate the politics of the Ganges plain in the century BC? In what way did the Gana Sanghas succumb to the growing power of the monarchical polity?
18. Do you agree with the view that the Mauryan state was neither a monolithic nor a centralized political organization?
19. Discuss the background of the formation of Asokan policy of Dhamma. How far was he successful in transforming his principles in this regard into ethical imperatives for his empire?
20. Assess the political and cultural significance of the Kushanas. Explicate in this context artistic developments in the Kushana period.
21. How did the foundation of the Central Asiatic Empire of the Kushanas contribute to India's participation in the trade network with the Roman Empire? Examine the nature of this trade.
22. Write an essay on the proliferation of crafts during 200 BC to 300 AD. How was it related to the growing importance of guilds in the post Mauryan period?
23. Evaluate the achievements of the Satavahanas.
24. What were the different strategies adopted by Samudragupta during his triumphant march across different parts of the subcontinent? Did his expedition expedite the process of the decline of the gana sangha polity?
25. Discuss the cultural achievements of the Guptas with special reference to literature, architecture, sculpture and painting.
26. Give an overview of the Gupta state and administration.
27. How would you assess women's access to property and inheritance in the age of Guptas? Did the concept of Stree-dhana make any difference to the status of women in general?
28. Write a note on Chalukya-Pallava struggle arising out of control over the Vengi region. Was the conflict merely political or was there an underlying economic factor?
29. Indicate the distinctive features of administration, socio-economic conditions, cultural and religious life of northern India at the time of Harshvardhana.
30. Discuss the rise of Gauda as a regional power under Sasanka.