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MCQ 1.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

Dholavira is globally celebrated for its magnificent stone-cut reservoirs and sophisticated water-harvesting systems.

The pre-Harappan layer at Kalibangan yielded the earliest clear archaeological proof of a ploughed agricultural field showing furrow lines.

Advanced stone-metalled streets were uniquely unearthed at Mohenjo-daro, not Lothal.

Mass bead-production units and specialized workshops were located at Chanhudaro and Lothal, not Harappa.

MCQ 2.**ANSWER: A****EXPLANATION**

Rajasuya represents the grand royal consecration ceremony performed by Vedic kings to claim absolute imperial sovereignty.

Aitareya Brahmana details a daughter as a source of misery while exalting a son as the protector and light of the home.

Lord Krishna is mentioned for the first time as the disciple of Sage Ghora Angirasa in the Chandogya Upanishad, not the Mundaka Upanishad.

MCQ 3.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

Bhartrihari was a towering philosopher, poet, and grammarian who belonged to this era.

Banabhatta served as the primary court poet (Asthana Kavi) of King Harsha and wrote the famous biographical Harshacharita and the romance Kadambari.

Matanga Divakara was a celebrated court poet, not a grammarian.

MCQ 4.**ANSWER: D****EXPLANATION**

Alexander had strongest resistance from Saumbhuti.

Alexander faced his fiercest, most exhausting battle from King Porus at the Battle of the Hydaspes (326 BCE).

King Saumbhuti surrendered without significant resistance.

Alexander spent exactly 19 months in India, set up an intermediate military camp at Ohind, and orchestrated his difficult return through the land route of the Makran desert.

MCQ 5.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

Statement 3 is incorrect:

The Samaharta was the Chancellor of the Exchequer / Chief Collector of Revenue, while the Sannidhata was the Chief Treasury Officer.

In Mauryan bureaucracy, Prasastri acted as the Inspector General of Prisons (or Royal Command Writer), not a forest minister.

Pradeshtri functioned strictly as the chief judges of Criminal courts (Kantakasodhana). Civil courts (Dharmasthiya) were headed by the Vyavaharika.

MCQ 6.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

He defeated Pulumavi of Satvahana at the battle of Pullalur.

Pulakesin II fought and defeated Mahendravarman I of the Pallava Dynasty at the Battle of Pullalur.



The Satavahanas had fallen centuries prior to Pulakesin II's 7th-century reign.

Xuanzang recorded the Chalukyan kingdom name as Mo-ho-la-cha (Maharashtra).

Pulakesin II earned the titles Parameshvara and Dakshinapatheshvara right after stopping Emperor Harsha's southward expansion at the Narmada River.

MCQ 7.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

First Sangam was held at Thenmadurai, chaired by Sage Agastya.

Second Sangam was convened at Kapadapuram, initially chaired by Agastya and completed under his disciple Tolkappiyar (author of Tolkappiyam).

Third Sangam was held at North Madurai, presided over by Nakkirar. Therefore, all three matches are historically correct.

MCQ 8.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

The River Sadanira (identified as the modern Gandak river) served as the western border of the Vajji/Videha territory, separating it from Kosala.

Vajji was organized as a powerful oligarchic confederacy composed of eight traditional clans (Atthakula), featuring the Licchavis and Jnatikas.

MCQ 9.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Hiuen Tsang visited during the 7th century CE under King Harshavardhana and stayed at his court.

Fa-Hien journeyed across India during the early 5th century CE under the prosperous reign of Chandrughupta II.

I-tsing travelled to India much later in the late 7th century CE after Kumaragupta's reign (which was in the early 5th century CE).

MCQ 10.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Tondi along with Musiri was a vital western coast seaport of the Chera kingdom.

Puhar also known as Poompuhar or Kaveripattinam) was the celebrated chief port city of the Early Cholas.

Sellur is mentioned in Sangam literature as a prominent town associated with the Velir chieftains or early regional rulers, located in the eastern region), not a principal port of the Pandya dynasty, whose primary ports were Korkai and Saliyur.

MCQ 11.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Dasharatha Maurya (grandson of Ashoka) is prominent in Buddhist texts, the Vayu Purana, and the Vishnu Purana, but it is the Matsya Purana that notably omits his name.

Brihadratha was the last Mauryan ruler, assassinated by Pushyamitra Shunga in 185 BCE.

Salisuka is recognized in certain traditions as a patron of Jainism (the "Ashoka of Jainism"). Dasharatha famously dedicated the stone-cut caves in the Nagarjuni Hills to the Ajivika sect.

MCQ 12.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Rigvedic hymns frequently mention protective armor like coats of mail (varman) and helmets (sipra). Excavations of the Indus Valley

Civilization have yielded practically no specialized body armor or military helmets.

The Indus Valley people did not know iron; their era was entirely a Bronze/Copper Age. Iron was introduced much later during the Later Vedic Period (around 1000 BCE).

The horse was central to the nomadic, chariot-driving lifestyle of the Rigvedic Aryans. In contrast, while a few controversial horse teeth/bones were found at Surkotada.

MCQ 13.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

The Sangam five-fold landscape classification (Ainthinai) and their actual deities are:

Kurinji (Hilly Backwoods) - Murugan

Mullai (Pastoral/Forestry) - Mayon / Vishnu

Marudam (Agricultural Plains) - Vendan / Indira

Neithal (Coastal/Littoral) - Varunan

Palai (Parched/Desert) - Korravai

MCQ 14.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

The Indus River system deposited highly rich silt alluvium annually, producing massive agricultural surpluses that sustained urban centers. Their animal husbandry was incredibly diverse, utilizing both humped (Zebu) and humpless cattle, water buffaloes, pigs, sheep, and poultry.

MCQ 15.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Early Chola monarchs routinely adopted prestigious clan titles such as Senni, Valavan, Killi, and Cholan.

The early inland capital of the Sangam Cholas was Uraiyur (famed for its fine cotton trade), while

Puhar served as their coastal/maritime capital. The pearl trade was explicitly the monopoly and pride of the Pandya kingdom (centered at Korkai).

The royal emblem of the Cholas was the Tiger.

The Bow and Arrow belonged to the Cheras, and the Fish belonged to the Pandyas.

MCQ 16.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

He took the title of Maharajadhiraja.

Sri Gupta (the founder of the dynasty) held the modest feudatory title of Maharaja. The grand title of Maharajadhiraja ("King of Kings") was assumed for the first time by his grandson, Chandrogusta I, to mark the birth of an independent empire.

The Poona copper plates call him the Adhiraja (first king). The Riddhapura plates reveal his affiliation with the Dharana Gotra. Chinese accounts confirm he allocated the revenue of 24 villages to build and maintain the Mrigashikhavana temple for Chinese pilgrims.

MCQ 17.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Adinatha (Rishabhadeva) - Bull

Mallinatha - Kalasha

Sambhavanatha - Horse

Parshvanatha - Snake

MCQ 18.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

In the 16th century, Filippo Sassetti noted deep structural affinities between Sanskrit and European languages. Max Müller famously emphasized that "Aryan" purely defines a

linguistic family and must never be misused to denote a biological race.

The Lithuanian homeland theory based on language comparisons was advocated by scholars like Latham and Schrader, but they did not establish Lithuania as the definitive original home; rather, linguistic paleontology places the Proto-Indo-European homeland around the Pontic-Caspian steppe.

MCQ 19.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

The Matsya Mahajanapada was located in the central/eastern region of modern-day Rajasthan (covering Jaipur, Alwar, and Bharatpur districts). Its ancient capital was Viratanagar (modern Bairat).

MCQ 20.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Brihadratha – Udayana – Kalshoka - Dhanananda

Brihadratha, legendary founder of the earliest Magadhan dynasty.

Udayana shifted the capital to Pataliputra (5th century BCE).

Kalashoka (Shishunaga dynasty) hosted the Second Buddhist Council (4th century BCE).

Dhanananda was the last ruler of the Nanda dynasty, overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya (late 4th century BCE).

MCQ 21.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

The Roots of Ancient India is a landmark archaeological work published by the American archaeologist Walter Ashlin Fairbairns Jr.

MCQ 22.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Aryabhata lived in the late 5th and early 6th centuries CE and worked primarily at Kusumapura (Pataliputra). While Nalanda flourished later, there is no verified historical evidence establishing Aryabhata as an active head or student of Nalanda University.

It is famous as the world's first fully residential university. Its multi-story library was called Dharma Gunj (Mountain of Truth) and comprised three building complexes (Ratnasagara, Ratnadadhi, and Ratnaranjaka). It was founded by Kumaragupta I and generously patronized by Harshavardhana.

MCQ 23.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

The Rigvedic Aryans did not practice idol worship or private emotional Bhakti. They personified the forces of nature as deities (like Indra, Agni, and Varuna) and propitiated them through community sacrifices (Yajnas) and chants.

MCQ 24.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

Kailasanatha Temple (Kanchi) was built by Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha).

Vaikunta Perumal Temple was built by Nandivarman II.

Mandagapattu Rock-cut Temple was built by Mahendravarman I.

MCQ 25.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

In Mauryan administration, Sita denoted Crown/State-owned agricultural lands, whereas Janapada applied to independent agricultural blocks owned privately or by village communities. The Kautilya Arthashastra explicitly states that state-run Sita lands were directly supervised by the Sitalhyaksha and tilled using slaves (dasas), convicts/prisoners and hired laborers karmakaras.

MCQ 26.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

The Lekhahia rock shelter in the Mirzapur district of the Vindhya region yielded the maximum number of Mesolithic human skeletons (historians record 17 to 27 human skeletons from excavations).

MCQ 27.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Vedic Metallurgy terminology:

Hiranya: Standard term for Gold.

Trapu: Refers to Tin.

Ayasa: Copper/Bronze.

Syamal / Krishna Ayasa: Refers to Iron.

Sisa was used for Lead.

MCQ 28.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

Horse-drawn chariots in ancient India were highly specialized instruments of warfare and aristocratic prestige, not commercial vehicles driving day-to-day urban trade.

Merchant and artisan guilds (Shrenis) possessed deep economic and autonomous judicial powers; they fixed wages, strictly supervised production quality, regulated market prices, and operated effectively as credit banks.

MCQ 29.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

The title Prithivya Pratham Veer (meaning 'The first warrior of the Earth') was earned by Gupta Emperor Samudragupta due to his unmatched military conquests across Northern and Southern India, as documented in his coins and inscriptions.

MCQ 30.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Modern historians (like Romila Thapar) have disproven the older claim that Ashoka's pacifism militarily crippled the empire. Ashoka never disbanded his large standing army nor did he abolish capital punishment. The collapse was driven by administrative over-centralization, weak successive rulers, financial strain, and regional partitions.

MCQ 31.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

As recorded in the famous Junagadh rock inscription (150 CE), the Saka ruler Rudradaman I repaired the burst dam of the Sudarshan Lake completely out of his own private treasury,

proudly stating he did not burden his subjects with forced labor (Visti) or extra taxes (Pranaya).

MCQ 32.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

The Harappan core zone and maximum concentration of early major urban settlements prominently span across the Indus-Ghaggar-Hakra plains of Punjab, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.

MCQ 33.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Pandya king Nedunjelyan (or a generic Pandya ruler of that prosperous trade era) who famously sent commercial diplomatic missions to Roman Emperor Augustus, not the semi-mythical early ruler Nediyan.

Megasthenes noted that the Pandya kingdom was once ruled by a woman (the daughter of Herakles, Pandaia). They occupied the southernmost tip of India, and Mudukudumi is praised in Sangam texts as an early conqueror who performed many Vedic sacrifices.

MCQ 34.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

While monogamy was the healthy social norm for common folk, polygamy was definitely practiced among the ruling warrior class (Rajanyas) and elite chieftains during the Rig Vedic period.

High-status women poets (Brahmavadinis) like Apala and Lopamudra composed Vedic hymns, women actively participated in Sabha and Samiti assemblies, and the ritual practice of Sati (widow burning) was completely absent.

MCQ 35.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

In ancient Indian guild structures, Karyachintaka did not mean a head of writers; they were executive officers or board members selected to run the daily affairs, administration, and dispute resolutions of the guild.

The Nagarseth served as the supreme chief or president of the urban merchant body. The Prathama-Kulika represented the chief artisan/craftsman. The Sarthavaha was the leader of the mobile trade caravans.

MCQ 36.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

It was Achaemenid Emperor Xerxes (and later Darius III at Gaugamela) who actively deployed Indian soldiers and specialized archers in the Greco-Persian wars, not Cyrus the Great.

The Persian rule brought the right-to-left Kharosthi script to northwestern India, introduced the administrative Satrapy system, and Darius I successfully annexed territories west of the Indus, Punjab, and Sindh.

MCQ 37.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Kushana Emperor Vima Kadphises (Kadphises II) was the first ruler to introduce high-purity gold coins for regular commercial circulation in India on a massive scale, typically featuring icons of Lord Shiva.

MCQ 38.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

The holy land of Brahmavarta was bounded by the sacred Sarasvati and Drishadvati rivers. The

Shatudhri (modern Sutlej) was an important river but did not define this specific inner core region. The Yamuna is mentioned exactly three times, the Ganga is mentioned just once in the late 10th Mandala (Nadi Sukta), and Sarasvati is exalted as the ultimate river (Naditarna).

MCQ 39.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Kacha coins resemble Gupta styles; many historians suggest Kacha was an elder brother who briefly held power during a succession crisis after Chandragupta I.

Alternately, a large school of numismatists and historians believe Kacha was simply the original/personal birth name of Samudragupta before he took up his formal regnal name.

MCQ 40.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Kadungon - revived the Pandya kingdom after the Kalabhra eclipse.

Amoghavarsha I - Rashtrakuta

Rajaraja I - Chola

MCQ 41.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

While both assertions are historically factual and accurate on their own, the requirement of the king's attendance in the Samiti (Statement-II) is not the causal reason or explanation for why they were poetically called the daughters of Prajapati in an entirely different.

MCQ 42.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

Vashishtiputra Pulumavi (the son and successor of Gautamiputra Satakarni) has the unique historical distinction of being the first Satavahana king to issue silver currency featuring a portrait of the ruler.

MCQ 43.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

Major Rock Edict III outlines the system of periodic administrative tours taken by pre-existing officers every five years. It is actually Major Rock Edict V which records the historic creation of the new post of Dhamma Mahamatas exactly 13 years after his coronation.

MCQ 44.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Statement I is correct because the Persian silver Sigloi circulated heavily in the northwestern parts of ancient India and directly influenced indigenous punch-marked coinage.

Statement II is incorrect because punch-marked and regional coinages were already steadily emerging independently in ancient India prior to Alexander's campaign.

MCQ 45.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

King Yashodharman of Malwa is historically celebrated for decisively defeating the ruthless Huna ruler Mihirakula (the son of Toramana) at the famous Battle of Sondani around 528 CE.

MCQ 46.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Both Mandi (located in the Muzaffarnagar district) and Hulas (located in the Saharanpur

district) are located inside present-day Uttar Pradesh. Rakhigarhi is situated in the Hisar district of Haryana.

MCQ 47.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

The famous depiction of the Mother Goddess from the Harappan site of Harappa is actually a terracotta figurine, not a steatite seal. Most of the iconic steatite seals discovered depict animals (like the unicorn or bull) and the Pashupati figure.

MCQ 48.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Statement I is correct because Pulakesin I founded the Chalukya kingdom and fortified the sovereign capital city of Vatapi (modern-day Badami).

Statement II is incorrect because Pulakesin I was a staunch follower of Vedic Hinduism and famously performed grand imperial rituals like the Ashvamedha (horse sacrifice)

MCQ 49.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Statement II is incorrect: Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang) notes that Baladitya built a spectacular, massive 300-foot-high Vihara housing a grand Buddha statue, but this was constructed at Nalanda (in Magadha/Bihar), not at Ujjain.

MCQ 50.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

The Ayodhya Inscription of Dhana Deva explicitly states that the Shunga dynasty ruler Pushyamitra Shunga performed two Ashvamedha Yajnas (horse sacrifices) to assert his imperial authority after overthrowing the Maurya dynasty.

MCQ 51.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Statement II is wrong: It was Vassakara (the chief minister of Magadha's King Ajatashatru), not King Udayana, who was sent to the Buddha to ask about the state and impending decline/attack of the Lichchhavis.

MCQ 52.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Vatsa – Udayana

Avanti – Pradyota

Gandhara - Pukkusati

Kosala - Prasenajit

MCQ 53.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Statement I is correct: King Antiochus I of Syria sent Deimachos as an official ambassador to the court of Mauryan Emperor Bindusara.

Statement II is correct: King Ptolemy II Philadelphus of Egypt dispatched Dionysius as an ambassador to India during the same period.

MCQ 54.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Statement I is correct: The Satavahana administration utilized a structured feudal hierarchy where the Mahabhojas and Maharathis occupied the absolute highest grade of landed feudatories.

Statement II is incorrect: The imperial Satavahana kings retained the exclusive, sovereign right to mint coins. Local feudatories like the Mahabhojas did not possess autonomous state authority to mint their own independent currency.

MCQ 55.**ANSWER: D****EXPLANATION**

While the later Vedic period witnessed a rigid transition where the Varna system became strictly birth-based rather than occupation-based, the social institution of formal untouchability had not yet acquired its fully formed, institutionalised ugly shape. That extreme level of social stratification evolved later during the Sutra and Smriti periods.

MCQ 56.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

The Nanadesis were a powerful, extensive guild of Indian merchants operating during the early medieval period. They organised international trade operations and established deep commercial networks across foreign regions, including Southeast Asia, Persia, Malaya, and Nepal.

While Manigramam was also a prominent merchant guild, it functioned predominantly within regional/peninsular networks, whereas Nanadesis historically represented "traders from other countries/lands" directly specializing in cross-border trade.

MCQ 57.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

Dauvarika - Chief Attendant / Porter / Executive officer of the Royal Palace.

Antarvamsika - Chief of the King's Harem Guards

Vyavaharika - Chief Judge of the civil courts

Pradesta - Chief Judge of the criminal court

Antapala - Governor or guardian responsible for protecting the imperial frontier territories.

MCQ 58.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

Statement-I is correct: Ashoka's Major Rock Edict II clearly lists out the southern frontier kingdoms—the Cholas, Pandyas, Satiyaputras, and Keralaputras—as sovereign neighboring states lying outside his direct empire.

Statement-II is incorrect: Ashoka did not militarily conquer the deep south. His only major recorded military conquest was Kalinga (modern Odisha). He maintained cordial diplomatic relations with the southern kingdoms, sending welfare missions and medical envoys there rather than armies.

MCQ 59.**ANSWER: A****EXPLANATION**

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: King Harshavardhana organized the assembly at Prayag (Allahabad) every five years to distribute accumulated imperial wealth in charity, and this monumental event lasted exactly 75 days.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The famous Chinese Buddhist monk Hiuen Tsang attended and was invited to the sixth Maha Moksha Parishad, not the fifth.

MCQ 60.**ANSWER: A****EXPLANATION**

Mundigauk - A vital Bronze age site in southern Rajasthan – Baluchistan, an important early agricultural and pastoral site.

Prabhaspatnam - Gujarat, an Indus Valley Civilisation/Late Harappan coastal site

Hanumangarh- Rajasthan, administrative district containing the famous Indus site of Kalibangan.

MCQ 61.**ANSWER: C**

EXPLANATION

Koldihwa, located in the Belan River valley of Uttar Pradesh, is world-famous among archaeologists for yielding some of the earliest evidence of domesticated rice grains dating back to the Neolithic period.

Burzahom (Kashmir) is famous for unique pit-dwellings and animal burials, not Ashokan rock caves.

Hunsgi (Karnataka) is a prominent Lower Palaeolithic limestone tool-factory site.

Bagor (Rajasthan) is an extensive Mesolithic site displaying early animal domestication.

MCQ 62.**ANSWER: A****EXPLANATION**

Statement I is correct: The famous Aihole inscription (634 CE) composed by the Chalukyan court poet Ravikirti explicitly praises his own poetic skills by claiming he attained equal fame to the great classical poets Kalidasa and Bharavi.

Statement II is incorrect: The first English translation of Kalidasa's masterpiece Abhijnanasakuntalam was actually published by Sir William Jones in 1789. James Prinsep is historically renowned for deciphering the Ashokan Brahmi scripts in 1837, not for translating this drama.

MCQ 63.**ANSWER: CD****EXPLANATION**

Both Alamgirpur (located in the Meerut district on the Hindon River) and Hulas (situated in the Saharanpur district) are prominent Indus Valley/Late Harappan sites situated inside present-day Uttar Pradesh.

MCQ 64.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

Sanauli (Baghpat district) is highly celebrated as a prominent Late Harappan / Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) burial site in UP, "Sahora" is not recognized as the latest Harappan site of Uttar Pradesh.

Amri represents an important transition phase. The single-horned mythical unicorn is the single most common symbol on IVC seals.

Rangpur (Gujarat) was excavated by M.S. Vats right after independence in 1947.

MCQ 65.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

Statement 1 is incorrect: It was Emperor Samprati (the grandson of Ashoka), not Kunal, who was a fervent patron of Jainism and earned the historical moniker of "Ashoka of Jainism" due to his extensive efforts in spreading Jain teachings and building temples.

Statement 2 is correct: King Dasharatha Maurya (another grandson of Ashoka) patronized the Ajivika sect and dedicated rock-cut caves to them in the Nagarjuni Hills (Bihar).

MCQ 66.**ANSWER: A****EXPLANATION**

Statement-I is correct: Fractional and symbolic burials have been found at Harappan sites, where massive funerary urns or pottery vessels containing items of daily utility, ornaments, or personal belongings were ceremonially buried in circular pits, even without actual skeletal remains.

Statement-II is correct: This specific archaeological practice of burying pottery, tools, and personal belongings directly with or in place

of the dead serves as definitive material proof that the Harappans deeply believed in life after death, intending for the deceased to use these goods in the afterlife.

Thus, Statement-II perfectly explains the burial pattern in Statement-I.

MCQ 67.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Dhananjaya – Kusthalpura

Nilaraja - Avamukta

Ugrasena - Palaka

Vishnugopa - Kanchi

MCQ 68.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Bhimbetka - Rock paintings as well as Mesolithic and Paleolithic rock shelters in Madhya Pradesh)

Burzahom - Unique Neolithic subterranean Pit dwellings found in Jammu & Kashmir.

Koldihwa - Earliest clear evidence of domesticated rice in the Belan Valley, Uttar Pradesh.

Hunsgi -. Paleolithic tools and habitation site in Karnataka.

MCQ 69.

ANSWER: d

EXPLANATION

Statement-I is incorrect: Sushruta lived during ancient times (generally dated between 1000 BCE and 600 BCE), long before the Harsha period (7th century CE). The most celebrated physician during the Harsha period was Vagbhata or court doctors mentioned by Bana, not Sushruta.

Statement-II is correct: In his medical masterpiece, the Sushruta Samhita, he devotes the entire supplementary section known as the Uttara-

Tantra to detailed accounts of ophthalmology, accurately classifying 76 distinct eye diseases and describing pioneering cataract surgeries.

MCQ 70.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

Pallava - Kanchi (Tamil Nadu)

Pandya - Madura (Tamil Nadu)

Yadava - Devagiri (Maharashtra)

Kakatiya - Warangal (Telangana)

MCQ 71.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

The Neolithic site of Burzahom in Kashmir provides extraordinary domestic evidence where skeletons of domesticated dogs and wolves were deliberately buried right alongside their masters in the same funerary pits.

MCQ 72.

ANSWER: b

EXPLANATION

Statement-I is correct: Ancient Indian merchant and artisan guilds (Srenis) acted as institutional banks, accepting permanent, un-alienable financial endowments known as Akshayanivi, using only the accruing monthly interest to fund specified charities.

Statement-II is correct: These guilds possessed sovereign judicial autonomy over their members and could legally impose rigorous penalties, stretching from monetary fines up to total social excommunication (Nirbhasana).

While both judicial autonomy (Statement-II) and banking/perpetual deposit systems (Statement-I) are correct traits of guild power, the legal right to punish members is conceptually distinct and does

not serve as a logical explanation for how their financial deposit system functioned.

MCQ 73.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

Indus Valley Civilization - India's highly structured first urbanization.

Later Vedic Society - Settled agriculture became the economic bedrock.

Rigvedic Society - A nomadic pastoral economy focused primarily on cattle rearing.

Medieval Period - The systemic rise of feudal land revenue structures and regional lords.

MCQ 74.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Burzahom – Kashmir

Chirand – Bihar

Koldihwa - Uttar Pradesh

Hallur – Karnataka

MCQ 75.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

The absolute highest density of seals has been excavated at the major nuclear urban hubs of Mohenjodaro and Harappa. Peripheral outposts like Ropar and Surkotada yielded far fewer specimens.

MCQ 76.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

Balu – Haryana

Manda - Jammu & Kashmir

Padri - Gujarat

Hulas - Uttar Pradesh

MCQ 77.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Kahapanaka - Renowned master of Astrology/Astronomy.

Amarsingh - Lexicographer who composed the Amarakosha, Sanskrit vocabulary/grammar.

Chapanaka - True master of Vetalbhata.

Vararuchi - Penned the Prakrit Prakasha, the earliest known Prakrit grammar manual.

MCQ 78.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Hiuen Tsang records a tradition connecting Ashvaghosha with Kanishka, involving Pataliputra.

Kanishka is principally associated with Mahayana Buddhism, not Hinayana. The Fourth Buddhist Council under his patronage is traditionally linked with the development of Mahayana Buddhism.

MCQ 79.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

In Vedic society, monogamy was the general rule and the norm across regular households. While polygyny did exist, it was strictly restricted to the aristocratic, princely, and ruling warrior classes for political alliances rather than being standard for "all classes"

MCQ 80.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Dhanvantri is a physician, celebrated father of Ayurveda.

Ghatakarapara was a renowned poet and master of sculpture/literary arts.

Varahamihira is a mathematician and his renowned works Brihat Samhita, Pancha-Siddhantika classify him as an Astronomer and Astrologer.

Amarasimha was an exceptional Sanskrit scholar, poet, and grammarian who authored the famous thesaurus Amarakosha.

MCQ 81.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

Jhukar and Jhangar cultures are generally associated with the post-urban/Late Harappan phase in Sindh, not with the emergence of the Mature Harappan civilization.

MCQ 82.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar recognized the prehistoric significance of the Bhimbetka rock shelters and their rock paintings in 1957.

MCQ 83.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Unlike dynasties before them, Chola monarchs like Rajaraja I and Rajendra I purposefully recorded their formal royal edicts and comprehensive historical narratives directly onto structural stone temples. This makes our historical understanding of the Cholas exceptionally precise

MCQ 84.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

The left hand of the iconic Mohenjo-daro bronze Dancing Girl is not clasped; rather, it hangs loosely down her left thigh and is covered almost completely with 24 to 25 bangles. On the other hand, her right hand rests firmly on her hip. She

stands in a contrapposto posture, wearing a single amulet and bracelet on her upper right arm, and her hair is gathered in a back bun.

MCQ 85.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Matsya Virat Nagar

Kuru Indraprastha

Surasena Mathura

Asmaka Potana/Potan

MCQ 86.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

The ideas of heaven (Svarga) and realms of punishment developed in Vedic literature before the Upanishads. The Upanishads are primarily associated with concepts such as Brahman, Atman, karma, rebirth and moksha. Hence, attributing the origin/presence of the concept specifically to the Upanishads is not the best statement.

MCQ 87.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

In ancient fiscal administration (most notably prominent across Mauryan and Gupta inscriptions), the state-enforced irrigation tax was known as Bidakabhagam (also spelled Udakabhaga).

MCQ 88.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

Daojali Hading a Neolithic site located in Assam
- Cord-impressed pottery

Bagor a Mesolithic site in Rajasthan - Animal domestication

Piklihal a Neolithic pastoral site in Karnataka - Ash mounds

Adamgarh, Famous for prehistoric cave paintings and shelters in Madhya Pradesh Rock shelters

MCQ 89.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

Jogalthembi coin hoard is associated with Nahapana; many of his coins were restruck by Gautamiputra Satakarni.

The Mathura Lion Capital inscription is associated with the Northern Satrap ruler Rajuvula/Rajula.

Azes I issued coins depicting a female deity commonly identified with Lakshmi.

MCQ 90.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

Akshavapa Head/superintendent of gambling

Palagala King's friend/messenger

Bhagadugha Tax collector

Sangrahitri Treasurer

MCQ 91.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

According to Megasthenes, the Agronomoi were officials connected with the supervision of the countryside and public works, including roads, milestones and related infrastructure.

MCQ 92.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Silver coinage was introduced by Chandragupta II after his conquest of the Western Kshatrapas, not by Skandagupta.

MCQ 93.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

The Ikshvakus of Andhra are referred to as Shriparvatiyas in the Puranic tradition, associated with the Sriparvata–Nagarjunakonda region.

MCQ 94.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

The famous expression “Asato mā sad gamaya, tamaso mā jyotir gamaya...” occurs in the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad, not the Rigveda.

MCQ 95.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Rishabhanatha - Ashtapada

Vasupujya - Champapuri

Neminatha - Urjayanta/Girnar

Mahavira - Pavapuri

MCQ 96.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

Mandi is a Harappan-period archaeological site in Muzaffarnagar district, Uttar Pradesh, notable particularly for the discovery of a large hoard of gold ornaments.

MCQ 97.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

The Indo-Greeks are associated with the system of military governorship.

Nepathya means costume/backstage or dressing and is not an Indo-Greek contribution to Indian astrology.

Greek influence is more closely associated with Horāsāstra and terms such as Yavanajataka.

Gold coins existed before/independently of the Indo-Greeks; the Indo-Greeks are especially noted for bilingual, portrait and inscribed coins. Large-scale gold coinage is particularly associated with the Kushanas.

MCQ 98.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

The Satavahanas patronised Prakrit, which was widely used in their inscriptions and literature.

The period witnessed considerable encouragement to the public/popular aspect of art, particularly through Buddhist stupas, sculptures, caves and donations by merchants, guilds and common people.

MCQ 99.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

Chandragupta II waged a decisive military campaign against the last Western Kshatrapa ruler, Rudrasimha III, completely overthrowing Saka rule in northwestern India.

Following this victory, the highly lucrative commercial trade routes and regions of western Malwa and the Kathiawar Peninsula (modern-day Gujarat) were permanently annexed into the expanding Gupta Empire.

MCQ 100.**ANSWER: D****EXPLANATION**

Circular graves are predominantly a characteristic feature of Kalibangan and recently discovered sites in Kutch, Gujarat (such as Juna Khatiya), but they are not a trademark burial trait of Banawali.

This specific type of symbolic or fractional urn burial configuration—a large urn containing small pots entirely devoid of skeletal or human bone remains is explicitly documented at Kalibangan, serving as an example of symbolic/memorial graves where a body was absent.

MCQ 101.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

The feature of a prominent drum platform decorated with five sacred Ayaka pillars positioned at each of the four cardinal points is a unique architectural hallmark of the Andhra style of Buddhist stupas. This is most distinctively celebrated at the Great Stupa of Amaravati, as well as Nagarjunakonda.

MCQ 102.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

Sir John Marshall served as the Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) from 1902 to 1928. In the 1920s, he officially directed and ordered the systematic excavations of both Harappa and Mohenjodaro, which led to the groundbreaking announcement of the Indus Valley Civilization to the world in 1924.

MCQ 103.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

Statement 2 is incorrect: There is absolutely no historical or scientific evidence demonstrating that complex organ transplantation occurred inside ancient India by the 3rd century AD.

MCQ 104.**ANSWER: C**

EXPLANATION

Statement-II is incorrect: Emperor Kanishka was a historic royal patron closely intertwined with the Mahayana form of Buddhism, famously convening the 4th Buddhist Council in Kashmir where the split between Mahayana and Hinayana was formally solidified.

MCQ 105.**ANSWER: D****EXPLANATION**

Bhagadudha was an important official among the Ratnins of the Later Vedic period. He was associated with the collection of the king's share (bhāga) or revenue.

MCQ 106.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

Chandragupta II's conquest of the Western Kshatrapas (Shakas) is strongly supported by his silver coinage, which imitated the Western Kshatrapa type.

These silver coins followed the Western Indian weight standard of approximately 33 grains.

MCQ 107.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

Major Rock Edict XII explicitly appeals for religious tolerance, mutual honor, and spiritual synthesis among various sects (Dhamma-vijaya). It emphasizes Vachaguti (restraint in speech) and states that by honoring another's religion, a person exalts their own sect while simultaneously serving the other.

MCQ 108.**ANSWER: A****EXPLANATION**

The Moriyas were centered at Pippalivana, not Ramagrama. (The Koliyas were the ones centered at Ramagrama).

The Shakyas were centered at Kapilavastu, not Pippalivana.

MCQ 109.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

Evidence highlighting extensive maritime trade network loops includes a prominent terracotta model of a boat discovered at the dockyard port-city of Lothal, alongside an explicit engraving of a boat on a steatite seal excavated from Mohenjodaro.

MCQ 110.**ANSWER: D****EXPLANATION**

The famous brick/terracotta tile detailing a dog chasing a cat's footprint was discovered at the industrial site of Chanhudaro, not Kalibangan.

MCQ 111.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

King Milinda asked profound questions regarding Buddhist philosophy, and Nagasena answered them. Their compiled dialogues form the famous text Milinda Panha.

Nagarjun was a famous Mahayana philosopher who proposed the concept of Sunyata.

Nagbhatt refers to Gurjara-Pratihara rulers.

Kumaril Bhatt was a prominent Mimamsa scholar.

MCQ 112.**ANSWER: D****EXPLANATION**

The Eran Stone Inscription that compares the king to gods like Kubera and Yama actually belongs to Samudragupta.



The Udayagiri Cave Inscriptions from the Gupta era are closely associated with Chandragupta II and Kumaragupta I.

MCQ 113.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Eastern Kings took the title of Samrat.

Southern Kings took the title of Bhoja.

Northern Kings took the title of Virat.

Western Kings took the title of Svarat.

MCQ 114.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

The Vishnu Purana provides dynastic information concerning the Mauryas.

The Vayu Purana is an important Puranic source for the Gupta period and provides information relevant to their political history/governance.

MCQ 115.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

The Mahavamsa (a Sri Lankan Buddhist chronicle) details Ashoka's dispatch to Taxila to suppress a major rebellion during Bindusara's reign, rather than specifically attributing campaigns in Khas and Nepal to this timeline.

MCQ 116.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

His daughter Rajyashri married Grahavarman of the Maukhari dynasty, not the king of Gauda.

The famous description of Prabhakaravardhana as a terror/lion to the Hunas comes from Banabhatta's Harshacharita, not the Banskhera inscription.

MCQ 117.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Rudradaman I was not the first ruler to assume the title Mahakshatrapa; the title was used earlier by other Kshatrapa rulers.

The inscription of Ushavadata (Nahapana's son-in-law) predates Rudradaman. Rudradaman's victories over a Satakarni ruler are recorded in the Junagadh inscription.

MCQ 118.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

The famous Sanskrit astronomical text Jyotishvidhabharana is traditionally attributed to the legendary polymath Kalidasa

MCQ 119.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

Fa-Hien entered the Indian subcontinent by taking the northern land-based Silk Road through Central Asia and crossing the rugged Hindu Kush mountains. Crucially, he did not return via the Khyber pass; he chose a maritime sea route, sailing from the port of Tamralipti to Sri Lanka, then navigating through Southeast Asia back to China.

MCQ 120.

ANSWER: A

EXPLANATION

The Charaka Samhita consists of 120 chapters, organised into 8 Sthanas (sections).

MCQ 121.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

The capital of Chedi was Shaktimati.

The capital of Vatsa was Kausambi.

MCQ 122.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

In his foundational mathematical treaty Panchasiddhantika, Varahamihira introduced an early formulation of what is known today as Pascal's Triangle (to compute combinations) and significantly improved Indian trigonometric tables for sine and cosine functions.

In the Brihat Samhita, he scientifically deduced that the Earth is a sphere suspended in space and correctly explained that the Moon reflects light from the Sun rather than producing its own luminosity.

MCQ 123.**ANSWER: D****EXPLANATION**

The Mauryan economy was highly centralized and managed by the state via centralized superintendents (Adhyakshas), rather than being autonomously controlled by private merchant guilds (Shrenis), which grew far more dominant later in the Post-Mauryan and Gupta eras.

While the Mauryan state did charge an irrigation water tax called Udakabhaga, the Kautilyan Arthashastra records that this tax rate generally ranged between 1/5th to 1/3rd of total agricultural produce depending on the water lifting mechanism, not 1/10th to 1/6th.

MCQ 124.**ANSWER: A****EXPLANATION**

Nevasa – Chalcolithic site located in Maharashtra (Pravara River valley).

Isampur – Lower Paleolithic site in Karnataka, associated with Acheulian tools.

Didwana – Paleolithic site in Rajasthan.

Gudiyam Caves – Paleolithic site in Tamil Nadu.

MCQ 125.**ANSWER: A****EXPLANATION**

Khila refers to uncultivable or wasteland. (Cultivated land was known as Kshetra)

Aprahata refers to jungle or uncultivated forest land. (Habitable land was known as Vasti).

MCQ 126.**ANSWER: A****EXPLANATION**

Amarasimha was primarily a legendary ancient grammarian, lexicographer, and philologist, rather than a playwright/poet.

MCQ 127.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

While ecological shifts played a role, structural hydrological changes—such as tectonic shifts altering the courses of major river systems, severe recurring floods, and the drying up of the perennial Ghaggar-Hakra (Sarasvati) river system—forced Harappan urban settlements to collapse, forcing citizens to migrate eastward and southward.

MCQ 128.**ANSWER: A****EXPLANATION**

Greeks (Indo-Greeks): Invaded the northwestern frontier starting around the early 2nd century BCE (led by rulers like Demetrius and Menander).

Sakas (Indo-Scythians): Followed the Greeks into India around the 1st century BCE, destroying Indo-Greek rule in most regions.

Kushans (Yuezhi clan): Established their empire around the 1st century CE, peaking under Emperor Kanishka.

MCQ 129.

ANSWER: B**EXPLANATION**

However, Statement-II does not explain why the religion became priestly controlled; the emergence of priestly dominance grew out of complex socio-political hierarchies and the codification of the Varnas.

MCQ 130.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

Fa-Hien - 5th century CE (399–414 CE)

Hiuen Tsang - 7th century CE (629–645 CE)

I-Tsing - 7th century CE (671 CE)

Al-Biruni -- 11th century CE (1020 CE)

MCQ 131.**ANSWER: D****EXPLANATION**

Kumaras were appointed as governors of important provinces during the Mauryan period.

Rajukas were important officials responsible for revenue collection, administration and judicial functions, especially in rural areas. Ashoka gave them powers of justice

MCQ 132.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

According to Ashokan Major Rock Edict III, the Pradeshika (chief revenue collector and judicial inspector), Rajuka (rural/survey officer), and Yukta (subordinate secretarial or accounting clerk) were core pillars operating at the district-level administration.

MCQ 133.**ANSWER: D****EXPLANATION**

The ancient republics were explicitly oligarchic in nature. Power was completely concentrated in the

hands of a small, hereditary council of ruling Kshatriya clans (such as the Lichchhavis or Sakyas).

MCQ 134.**ANSWER: A****EXPLANATION**

River navigation was very prominent with specific river ports functioning heavily along major inland rivers like the Ganges.

Major inland commercial centers acted as critical transshipment hubs or entrepôts where heavy traffic of international and local consumer goods were bartered, cataloged, and taxed

MCQ 135.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

Dharma was fundamentally the social framework of religious obligations, ethical codes, and individual duties toward oneself, family, and society.

Rita represented the overarching cosmic, moral, and physical world order that kept the natural universe (stars, seasons, day and night cycles) systematically aligned in Rigvedic theology

MCQ 136.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

Kurinji (hills) Hunting, honey collection

Mullai (forest/pastoral) Dairy products

Marudam (fertile plains) Agriculture

Neithal (coastal region) Fishing, salt production

MCQ 137.**ANSWER: D****EXPLANATION**

Yarkand (located in the Tarim Basin of modern Xinjiang, China) did not come under the sphere of Mauryan rule. The Mauryan northwestern frontier



was bounded by the Hindu Kush and eastern parts of Afghanistan. It was much later during the Kushan Dynasty that Emperor Kanishka extended his direct military rule across the Pamir Mountains to conquer Khotan, Kashgar, and Yarkand.

MCQ 138.

ANSWER: B

EXPLANATION

The famous terracotta Mother Goddess figurine from Harappa features an elaborate, fan-shaped headdress with two cup-like structures on either side, rather than hair simply tied back in a plain bun.

MCQ 139.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Advanced internal organ transplantation was not practiced or documented in 3rd-century AD India.

MCQ 140.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

There is no historically documented Kannada play named Saptavataram authored in Prakrit by a chieftain of Pulakeshin II. Statement II is incorrect: The historical Sanskrit drama Kaumudi-Mahotsava is credited to the female playwright Vijjika (often identified as Vijayanka), whereas Ravikirti was the famous court poet who authored the Sanskrit Aihole Pillar Inscription of Pulakeshin II.

MCQ 141.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

In the Mauryan administration, the term Sanstha specifically referred to stationary secret agents/spies who operated from a fixed

establishment. Moving spies were called Sanchari, while the actual police force or law enforcement bodies were called Rakshin or Chororajjuka.

MCQ 142.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Important Satavahana trade centres included Pratishthana (Paithan), Tagara, Amaravati and Nasik.

Kalyana was mainly associated with later western Deccan trade, not a major Satavahana centre.

MCQ 143.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

According to Harishena's Prayag Prashasti, Samudragupta followed a policy of Grahana-Moksha-Anugraha towards the 12 kings of South India. He defeated them but did not annex their lands; he liberated them and restored their thrones in exchange for acknowledging his suzerainty and paying tribute.

MCQ 144.

ANSWER: C

EXPLANATION

Harappan society shows evidence of religious practices (Mother Goddess, Pashupati seal), but religion did not dominate public life like in some later civilizations.

The Harappans were among the earliest people to cultivate cotton; Greek writers called cotton "Sindon" after the Sindh region.

MCQ 145.

ANSWER: D

EXPLANATION

Vinaydhar was the presiding officer/speaker of the Sabha in republican states.

Shalakagrahaka was the officer responsible for voting/election process (collecting voting sticks).

In Licchavi administration, the Ashtakulika council acted as judicial authorities.

Asannapragyapaka was responsible for arrangement of seats in the assembly.

MCQ 146.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

Simuka is traditionally considered the founder and synonymous with the early rise of the Satavahana dynasty, not Pulumavi.

MCQ 147.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

Harsha did not form an alliance with Shashanka; they were bitter enemies. Harsha launched military campaigns against him to avenge the murder of his brother, Rajyavardhana. He did, however, form a matrimonial alliance with Dhruvasena II of Vallabhi.

MCQ 148.**ANSWER: A****EXPLANATION**

Harsha did not form an alliance with Shashanka; they were bitter enemies. Harsha launched military campaigns against him to avenge the murder of his brother, Rajyavardhana. He did, however, form a matrimonial alliance with Dhruvasena II of Vallabhi.

MCQ 149.**ANSWER: C****EXPLANATION**

The town/city administration was overseen by an officer called the Purapala or Nagaradhikrita. The Nagara Sreshti was not a government official, but

rather the chief of the city's merchant guild who served on the advisory council.

MCQ 150.**ANSWER: B****EXPLANATION**

The concept of distinct Pinds (funeral/ancestral rice-ball offerings) tailored specifically by Varna developed much later in the Post-Vedic Grihya Sutras and Smritis, not the Aitareya Brahmana. Statement II (Incorrect): The Maitrayani Samhita portrays Shudras in a position of economic and social deprivation (stating they cannot perform yajnas), rather than highlighting "rich Shudras".

