

2022

Paper: HIS-HG/RC-1016

Paper Name: History of India (From Earliest times up to C. 1206)

1 mark questions & answers

a. Who wrote 'Rajatarangini'?

Ans. Rajatarangini was written by Kalhana.

b. Who composed Allahabad Pillar inscription?

Ans. The Allahabad Pillar Inscription was composed by Harisena, the court poet of Samudragupta.

c. Write any one cause of the decline of the Harappan civilization.

Ans. One cause of the decline of the Harappan Civilization was the shift in the course of major rivers, especially the drying up of the Ghaggar-Hakra (Saraswati) River, which affected agriculture and settlement stability.

d. Name any one site of the Harappan Civilization.

Ans. One site of the Harappan Civilization is Mohenjo-daro.

e. What was the religious book of the Vedic Aryans?

Ans. The primary religious book of the Vedic Aryans was the *Rigveda*.

f. What was the meaning of the term 'Janapada'?

Ans. 'Janapada' means the territory or land inhabited and ruled by a *jana* (tribe). It refers to the earliest territorial political units in ancient India.

g. Who was the founder of Buddhism?

Ans. The founder of Buddhism was Gautama Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama).

h. Where was Vardhamana Mahavira born?

Ans. Vardhamana Mahavira was born at Kundagrama (near Vaishali in present-day Bihar).

i. Who was the last king of the Nanda dynasty?

Ans. The last king of the Nanda dynasty was Dhana Nanda.

j. Who was Megasthenes?

Ans. Megasthenes was a Greek ambassador sent by Seleucus I to the court of Chandragupta Maurya, and he wrote the work *Indica* describing India.

k. Who wrote 'Arthashastra'?

Ans. 'Arthashastra' was written by Kautilya (also known as Chanakya or Vishnugupta).

- l. Who was the greatest king of the Kushana dynasty?

Ans. The greatest king of the Kushana dynasty was Kanishka.

- m. Who was the founder of the Gupta empire?

Ans. The founder of the Gupta Empire was Sri Gupta.

- n. Name the account of the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang.

Ans. The account of the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang is called *Si-Yu-Ki* (also known as *The Great Tang Records on the Western Regions*).

- o. Who wrote 'Harshacharita'?

Ans. 'Harshacharita' was written by Banabhatta.

- p. Who established the capital Gangaikonda Cholapuram?

Ans. Gangaikonda Cholapuram was established by Rajendra Chola I.

- q. Who was Muhammad Ghori?

Ans. Muhammad Ghori was a ruler from the Ghurid dynasty who invaded India in the late 12th century and laid the foundation for Muslim rule in northern India.

- r. Who was the Principal of the Nalanda university?

Ans. The principal (or head) of Nalanda University was called the *Acharya*; one of the most famous principals was Shilabhadra.

2 marks questions & answers

- a. Name any two metals used by the Harappans.

Ans. Two metals used by the Harappans were copper and bronze.

- b. Name two institutions of the Vedic age.

Ans. Two institutions of the Vedic age were:

- Gurukul – the residential school for education.
- Sabha and Samiti – assemblies for decision-making and governance.

- c. How many Vedas are there? Name them.

Ans. There are four Vedas. They are: Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda and Atharvaveda.

- d. Write any two principles of Jainism.

Ans. Two principles of Jainism are:

- Ahimsa – Non-violence towards all living beings.
- Satya – Truthfulness in thought, speech, and action.

e. Write the names of any two Mahajanapadas.

Ans. Two Mahajanapadas were:

- Magadha
- Kosala

f. Write about the origin of the Sungas.

Ans. The Sunga dynasty originated after the fall of the Maurya Empire. Pusyamitra Sunga, a Mauryan general, overthrew the last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha, around 185 BCE, and established the Sunga dynasty, which ruled mainly in northern and central India.

g. Write any two causes of the decline of Mauryan Empire.

Ans. Two causes of the decline of the Mauryan Empire are:

- Weak successors after Ashoka – After Ashoka's death, his successors were weak and unable to maintain the vast empire.
- Administrative and financial difficulties – The large size of the empire made administration difficult, and heavy taxation led to public discontent.

h. Who was Gautamiputra Satakarni?

Ans. Gautamiputra Satakarni was a ruler of the Satavahana dynasty (2nd century CE) in Deccan India, known for defeating the Saka rulers and restoring Satavahana power.

i. Write the terms used to denote the heads of the Elephantry and Cavalry of the Gupta age.

Ans. In the Gupta age:

- The head of the Elephantry was called Gaja-Raja.
- The head of the Cavalry was called Ashva-Raja.

j. Between whom and when was the 1st battle of Tarain fought?

Ans. The 1st Battle of Tarain was fought in 1191 CE between Prithviraj Chauhan and Muhammad Ghori.