



GENERAL AWARENESS IQ

History | Geography | Polity | Economics
Physics | Chemistry | Biology

for SSC, Railways &
Other Govt Examinations

BASED ON LATEST PATTERN

- Section wise Theory & Concepts
- Includes Questions on Traditional General Knowledge
- 4500+ Questions with Detailed Solutions
- Includes the Previous Years' Questions of all the Topics

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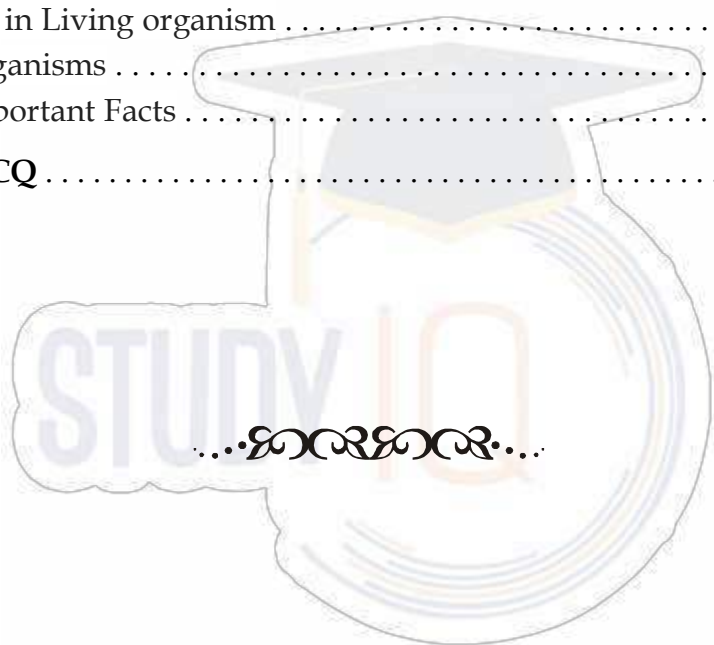
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Part – I

Section – A
History

PALEOLITHIC OR OLD STONE AGE (5,00,000 B.C. - 10,000 B.C.)

- In India, the Palaeolithic Age developed in the Pleistocene period or the Ice Age and was spread.
- In practically all parts of India except the alluvial parts of Ganga and Indus.
- Food gathering and hunting were the main occupations of the people of this phase. They had no knowledge of agriculture, fire or pottery of any material.
- Man during this period used tools of unpolished, undressed rough stones and lived in cave and rock shelters.
- They mainly used hand axes, cleavers, choppers, blades, scrapers and burin.
- Their tools were made of hard rock called 'quartzite'.
- Hence Paleolithic men are also called 'Quartzite Men'.
- Homo sapiens first appeared in the last phase of Paleolithic age.
- The Paleolithic Age in India has been divided into three phases according to the nature of stone tools used by the people and also according to the nature of change in the climate - Early or lower Paleolithic, Middle Paleolithic and Upper Paleolithic.
 - (a) The Early Paleolithic Age covers the greater part of the Ice Age. Its characteristic tools are hand axes, cleavers and choppers. Such tools have been found in Soan and Sohan river valley (now in Pakistan) and in the Belan Valley in the Mirzapur district of UP. In this period climate became less humid.
 - (b) Middle Paleolithic Phase is characterized by the use of stone tools made of flakes mainly scrapers, borers and blade like tools. The sites are found in the valleys of Soan, Narmada and Tungabhadra rivers. During this phase, Pithecanthropus or Homo erectus evolved.
 - (c) In the Upper Paleolithic Phase, the climate became warm and less humid. This stage is marked by burins and scrapers. Such tools have been found in AP, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bhopal and Chhota Nagpur plateau.
- The Old Stone Age sites are widely found in various parts of the Indian subcontinent and are generally located near water sources.
- In the Old Stone Age, food was obtained by hunting animals and gathering edible plants and tubers. Therefore, these people are called as hunter-gatherers.
- The hunting of large animals would have required the combined effort of a group of people with large stone axes. Their way of life became modified with the passage of time since they made attempts to domesticate animals, make crude pots and grow some plants.
- A few Old Stone Age paintings have also been found on rocks at Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh and other places. The period before 10000 B.C. is assigned to the Old Stone Age.
- Some of the famous sites of Old Stone Age in India are:
 - (a) The Soan valley and Potwar Plateau on the northwest India;
 - (b) The Siwalik hills on the north India;
 - (c) Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh;
 - (d) Adamgarh hill in Narmada valley;
 - (e) Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh; and
 - (f) Attirampakkam near Chennai.
- At Chopani-Mando in the Belan valley of the Vindhyas and the middle part of the Narmada valley a sequence of occupation from all the three stages of the Paleolithic to Neolithic stage have been found in sequence. Chopani Mando is an important site where fossil animal bones have been found.
- The Son and the adjacent Belan valley (Mirzapur, UP) provide a sequence of artifacts from lower Paleolithic to Neolithic.

MESOLITHIC OR MIDDLE STONE AGE (10,000 B.C. - 6000 B.C.)

- The next stage of human life is called Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age which falls roughly from 10000 B.C. to 6000 B.C. and was the transitional phase between the Paleolithic Age and Neolithic Age.
- Various Mesolithic sites are found in the Chhotanagpur region, Central India and also south of the Krishna River.
- Mesolithic remains are found in Langhanj in Gujarat, Adamgarh in Madhya Pradesh and also in some places of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- In the sites of Mesolithic Age, a different type of stone tools is found. These are tiny stone artifacts, often not more than five centimeters in size. These characteristic tools of the Mesolithic Age are known as Microliths-pointed, crescentic blades, scrapers, etc, all made of stone.
- The paintings and engravings found at the rock shelters give an idea about the social life and economic activities of Mesolithic people. The hunting-gathering pattern of life continued during this period.
- However, there seems to have been a shift from big animal hunting to small animal hunting and fishing. The use of bow and arrow also began during this period.
- Also, there began a tendency to settle for longer periods in an area. Therefore, domestication of animals, horticulture and primitive cultivation started.
- The last phase of this age saw the beginning of plain cultivation. Animal bones are found in these sites and these include dog, deer, boar and ostrich.
- Occasionally, burials of the dead along with some microliths and shells seem to have been practiced.

NEOLITHIC AGE (6000 B.C. - 1000 B.C.)

- A remarkable progress is noticed in human civilization in the Neolithic Age. In the world context, the New Stone Age began in 9000 B.C.
- The only Neolithic settlement in the Indian subcontinent attributed to 7000 B.C. lies in Mehrgarh, which is situated in Baluchistan, a province of Pakistan.
- In India, Neolithic Age is not earlier than 6000 BC and at some places in South and Eastern India; it is as late as 1000 B.C.
- These include the Kashmir valley, Chirand in Bihar, Belan valley in Uttar Pradesh and in several places of the Deccan.
- The important Neolithic sites are:
 - (a) Burzahom and Gufkral in J&K (famous for pit dwelling, stone tools and graveyard in house),
 - (b) Maski, Brahmagiri, Tekkalakota in Karnataka, Paiyampatti in Tamil Nadu,
 - (c) Piklihal and Hallur in AP,
 - (d) Garo hills in Meghalaya,
 - (e) Chirand and Senuwar in Bihar (known for remarkable bone tools),
 - (f) Amri, Kotdiji, etc.
- Koldihawa in UP revealed a threefold cultural sequence: Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Iron Age.
- The chief characteristic features of the Neolithic culture are the practice of agriculture, domestication of animals, polishing of stone tools and the manufacturing of pottery.
- The cultivation of plants and domestication of animals led to the emergence of village communities based on sedentary life.
- There was a great improvement in technology of making tools and other equipments used by man.
- Stone tools were now polished and these polished axes were found to be more effective tools for hunting and cutting trees.
- Mud brick houses were built instead of grass huts.
- Neolithic people knew about making fire and making pottery, first by hand and then by potters wheel. They also painted and decorated their pottery.

- Pottery was used for cooking as well as storage of food grains.
- Large urns were used as coffins for the burial of the dead.
- There was also improvement in agriculture. Wheat, barley, rice, millet were cultivated in different areas at different points of time.
- Neolithic sites in Allahabad district are noted for the cultivation of rice in the sixth millennium B.C. Domestication of sheep, goats and cattle was widely prevalent.
- Cattle were used for cultivation and for transport.
- The people of Neolithic Age used clothes made of cotton and wool.

CHALCOLITHIC OR METAL AGE

- The end of the Neolithic Period saw the use of metals of which copper was the first and a culture based on the use of stone and copper arrived.
- Such a culture is called Chalcolithic which means the stone-copper phase.
- The new technology of smelting metal ore and crafting metal artifacts is an important development in human civilization.
- But the use of stone tools was not given up. Some of the micro-lithic tools continued to be essential items.
- People began to travel for a long distance to obtain metal ores which led to a network of Chalcolithic cultures and the Chalcolithic cultures were found in many parts of India.
- Generally, Chalcolithic cultures had grown in river valleys.
- Gold was probably one of the earliest discoveries, but it served as a material for ornaments only.
- Important sites of this phase are spread in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Bihar, MP, etc.
- In South India the river valleys of the Godavari, Krishna, Tungabhadra, Pennar and Kaveri were settled by farming communities during this period. Although they were not using metals in the beginning of the Metal Age, there is evidence of copper and bronze artifacts by the end of second millennium B.C.
- Several bronze and copper objects, beads, terracotta figurines and pottery were found at Paiyampalli in Tamil Nadu.
- The Chalcolithic people used different types of pottery of which black and red pottery was most popular.
- These people were not acquainted with burnt bricks and generally lived in thatched houses.
- It was a village economy.
- The Chalcolithic age is followed by Iron Age. Iron is frequently referred to in the Vedas.
- The Iron Age of the southern peninsula is often related to Megalithic Burials.
- Megalith means Large Stone.
- The burial pits were covered with these stones. Such graves are extensively found in South India.
- Some of the important megalithic sites are Hallur and Maski in Karnataka, Nagarjunakonda in Andhra Pradesh and Adichchanallur in Tamil Nadu.
- Black and red pottery, iron artifacts such as hoes and sickles and small weapons were found in the burial pits.

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION IN INDIA

- The Indus Valley Civilization was an ancient civilization thriving along the Indus River & the Ghaggar-Hakra River in what is now Pakistan & north-western India.
- According to radio-carbon dating, it spread from the year 2500 - 1750 BC.
- Dayaram Sahni first discovered Harappa (on Ravi) in 1921. R.D. Banerjee discovered Mohenjodaro or 'Mound of the Dead' (on Indus) in 1922. Sir John Marshal played a crucial role in both these.
- Harappan Civilization forms part of the proto history of India & belongs to the Bronze Age.
- Copper, bronze, silver, gold were known but not iron.
- The Indus-Valley people were well-acquainted with the use both of cotton & wool.

Domestication of animals:

- Stock breeding was important in Indus culture. Besides sheep & goats, dogs, humped cattle, buffalo & elephant was certainly domesticated. The camel was rare & horse was not known.

Town Planning:

- Elaborate town-planning. It followed the Grid System. Roads were well cut, dividing the town into large rectangular or square blocks.
- Used burnt bricks of good quality as the building material. Elsewhere in the contemporary world, mud-bricks were used.
- In Mohenjodaro, a big public bath (Great Bath) measuring 12 m by 7 m & 2.4 m deep, has been found. Steps led from either end to the surface, with changing rooms alongside. It was probably used for ritual bathing.
- Underground Drainage System.

Major Cities & Their Features:

- Mohenjodaro (Sind) is situated on the right bank of the Indus. Great Granary, Great bath, Assembly halls, Shell strips, Pashupati Mahadev/Proto Shiva(Seal), Bronze image of Dancing girl, Steatite image of Bearded man, Clay figure of Mother goddess found in Mohenjodaro.
- Chanhudaro lies on the left bank of the Indus about 130 km south of Mohenjodaro. City without a citadel, Inkpot, Imprints of dog's paw on Brick, Terracotta model of a bullock cart, Bronze toy cart are important archeological findings of Chanhudaro.
- Kalibangan (Rajasthan) was on the banks of the river Ghaggar which dried up centuries ago. Ploughed field surface, 7 Fire alters, decorated bricks, wheels of a toy cart, Mesopotamian cylindrical seal are found in Kalibangan.
- Lothal is at the head of the Gulf of Cambay. Important excavations are Dockyard, Fire alters, Terracotta figurine of Horses, Double Burial, Terracotta Model of a ship, Dying vat, Persian/Iranian seal, Painted Jar(Bird And Fox).
- Banawali (Haryana) was situated on the banks of the now extinct Saraswati River. Important features of Lothal are lack of grid pattern town planning, lack of systematic drainage pattern, Toy Plough, Clay figures of Mother Goddess.
- Surkotoda (Gujarat) is at the head of the Rann of Kutch. Important archeological excavations are Bones of Horse, Oval Graves and Pot Burials.
- Dholavira (Gujarat) excavated is in the Kutch district. Bronze Images (Charioteer with Chariot, ox, elephant and rhinoceros) are important excavations.

Trade & Commerce in Indus Valley Civilization:

- There was no metallic money in circulation & trade was carried through Barter System.
- Weights & measures of accuracy existed in Harappan culture (found at Lothal). The weights were made of limestone, steatite, etc. & were generally cubical in shape.
- 16 was the unit of measurement (16, 64,160, 320).
- A dockyard has been discovered at Lothal. Rangpur, Somnath & Balakot functioned as seaports. Sutkagendor & Sutkakoh functioned as outlets.

Indus Valley Civilization Script:

- The script is not alphabetical but pictographic (about 600 undeciphered pictographs).
- The script has not been deciphered so far, but overlaps of letters show that it was written from right to left in the first line & left to right in the second line. This style is called 'Boustrophedon'.

VEDIC CULTURE (1500 BC-600 BC)

The Vedic Civilization was the culture and traditions of the society prevalent during the Vedic age (1500- 600 BCE).

Vedic Literature:

The term Veda means “superior knowledge” in Sanskrit.

Four major Vedas constitute the vedic literature. They are – Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sam Veda, and Atharva Veda.

Rig Veda – Earliest veda. Has 1028 hymns in praise Gods.

Yajur Veda – Has details of rules to be followed during sacrifices

ama Veda – Has a collection of songs. The origins of Indian music are traced to it.

Atharva Veda – has a collection of spells and charms.

Besides these Vedas, there were Brahmanas, Upnishads, Aryankas, and epics- Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Brahmanas – Prose about vedic hymns, rituals and philosophies.

Aryankas – Deal with mysticism, rites and rituals.

Upnishads – Philosophical texts dealing with soul, mysteries of nature.

Ramayana was authored by Valmiki.

Mahabharata was written by Ved Vyasa.

Classification of Vedic Period:

The period of Vedic Civilization (1500-500 BCE) is divided into two broad parts –

Early Vedic Period (1500-1000 BC), also known as Rig Vedic Period.

Later Vedic Period (1000- 600 BC).

Political Organisation in Vedic Age:

In Early Vedic Age: ‘Kula’ was the basic unit of political organization. Multiple families together of kinship formed a ‘grama’. Group of villages were called ‘visu’, headed by ‘vishayapati’. The highest political and administrative unit was ‘jana’ or tribe. There were several such tribal kingdoms – Bharatas, Matsyas, Yadus and Purus. There were two bodies- Sabha(council of elders) and Samiti(general assembly of people).

Society in Vedic Civilization: The Rig Vedic society was basically patriarchal. The basic unit of society was ‘graham’ or family, its head was called as ‘grahapathi’. Apala, Viswavara, Ghosa and Lopamudra were women poets.

Women could attend the popular assemblies. No child marriage, sati practice
ocial divisions were not rigid. Varna system in vedic civilization.

Economic Conditions in Vedic Civilization: The Rig Vedic Aryans were pastoral, cattle rearing people. After they permanently settled in North India they began agriculture. Carpenters produced chariots and ploughs. A variety of articles with copper, bronze and iron were made by workers. Spinning was an important occupation – cotton and woolen fabrics. Goldsmiths made ornaments. The potters made different kinds of vessels for domestic use.

Trade was conducted by barter system in beginning but later shifted to use of gold coins called ‘nishka’ for large transactions. Rivers acted as means of transport.

Coins: Besides ‘nishka’, ‘satamana’ – gold coins and ‘krishnala’ – silver coins were also used as a media of exchange.

Religion in Vedic Period: Rig Vedic Aryans worshiped natural forces like earth, fire, wind, rain and thunder by personifying them into many gods. Some important Rig Vedic gods – Prithvi (Earth), Agni (Fire), Vayu (Wind), Varuna (Rain) and Indra (Thunder). And 'Indra' was most popular. 'Agni' – an intermediary between the gods and the people.

'Varuna' – the upholder of natural order.

Female Gods – 'Aditi' and 'Ushas'. No temples and no idol worship. Prayers were offered to gods for rewards.

BUDDHISM IN INDIA

- Buddha Born in 563 BC on the Vaishakha Poornima Day at Lumbini (near Kapilavastu) in Nepal.
- His father Suddhodana was the Saka ruler.
- His mother (Mahamaya, of Kosala dynasty) died after 7 days of his birth. Brought up by stepmother Gautami.
- Married at 16 to Yoshodhara. Enjoyed the married life for 13 years & had a son named Rahula.
- Left his palace at 29 (with Channa, the charioteer & his favourite horse, Kanthaka) in search of truth (also called 'Mahabhinishkramana' or The Great Renunciation) & wandered for 6 years.
- Attained 'Nirvana' or 'Enlightenment' at 35 at Gaya in Magadha (Bihar) under the Pipal tree.
- Delivered the first sermon at Sarnath where his five disciples had settled. His first sermon is called 'Dharmachakrapravartan' or 'Turning of the Wheel of Law'.
- Attained Mahaparinirvana at Kushinagar (identical with village Kasia in Deoria district of UP) in 483 BC at the age of 80 in the Malla republic.

Buddhist Councils:

- The monks gathered 4 times after the death of Buddha & the effect of these events had their effect on Buddhism.
- **First Council:** At Rajgriha, in 483 BC under the chairman ship of Mehakassaapa (King was Ajatshatru). Divided the teachings of Buddha into two Pitakas – Vihaya Pitaka & Sutta Pitaka. Upali recited the Vinaya Pitaka & Ananda recited the Sutta Pitaka.
- **Second Council:** At Vaishali, in 383 BC under Sabakami (King was Kalasoka). Followers divided into Sthavirmadins & Mahasanghikas.
- **Third Council:** At Pataliputra, in 250 BC under Mogaliputta Tissa (King was Ashoka). In this, the third part of the Tripitaka was coded in the Pali language.
- **Fourth Council:** At Kashmir (Kundalvan), in 72 AD under Vasumitra (King was Kanishka). Vice-Chairman was Ashwaghosha). Divided Buddhism into Mahayana & Hinayana sects.

Buddist Literature:

- Buddhist scriptures in Pali are commonly referred to as Tripitakas, i.e. 'Threefold Basket'.
- **Vinaya Pitaka:** Rules of discipline in Buddhist monasteries.
- **Sutta Pitaka:** Largest, contains collection of Buddha's sermons.
- **Abhidhamma Pitaka:** Explanation of the philosophical principles of the Buddhist religion.

JAINISM IN INDIA

- There were 24 tirthankaras (Prophets or Gurus), all Kshatriyas.
- First was Rishabhanath (Emblem: Bull).
- The 23rd Tirthankar Parshwanath (Emblem: Snake) was the son of King Ashvasena of Banaras. His main teachings were: Non-injury, Non-lying, Non-stealing, Non-possession.
- The 24th & the last Tirthankar was Vardhman Mahavira (Emblem: Lion).

Vardhman Mahavira :

- He was born in Kundagram (District Muzaffarpur, Bihar) in 599 BC.
- His father Siddhartha was the head of Jnatrika clan. His mother was Trishala, sister of Lichchavi Prince Chetak of Vaishali.
- Mahavira was related to Bimbisara.
- Married to Yashoda, had a daughter named Priyadarsena, whose husband Jamali became his first disciple.
- At 30, after the death of his parents, he became an ascetic.
- In the 13th year of his asceticism (on the 10th of Vaishakha), outside the town of Jrimbhikgrama, he attained supreme knowledge (Kaivalya).
- From now on he was called Jaina or Jitendriya & Mahavira, & his followers were named Jains. He also got the title of Arihant, i.e., worthy.
- At the age of 72, he attained death at Pava, near Patna, in 527 BC.

Note: In Jainism, three Ratnas (Triratnas) are given & they are called the way to Nirvana. They are Right Faith, Right Knowledge & Right Conduct.

History of Jain Councils:

- **First Council:** Held at Pataliputra by Sthulabhadra in the beginning of third century BC. It resulted in the compilation of 12 Angas to replace 14 Purvas.
- **Second Council:** It was held at Vallabhi (Gujarat) in the fifth century AD under the leadership of Devridhigani.

THE MAGADHA EMPIRE

- **Period of Magadha Empire:** 6th Century – 4th Century BC.
- **Extent of Magadha Empire:** Magadha embraced the former districts of Patna, Gaya & parts of Shahabad & grew to be the leading state of the time.

Haryanka Dynasty: Originally founded in 566 BC by the grandfather of Bimbisara, but actual foundation by Bimbisara.

King Bimbisara of Magadha (544 BC – 492 BC):

- Contemporary of Buddha.
- His capital was Rajgiri (Girivraja)
- His capital was surrounded by 5 hills, the openings in which were closed by stone walls on all sides.

Ajatshatru (492 BC – 460 BC):

- Son of Bimbisara killed his father & seized the throne.
- Buddha died during his reign; arranged the first Buddhist Council.

Udayin (460 – 444 BC): He founded the new capital at Pataliputra, situated at the confluence of the Ganga & Son.

Shishunaga Dynasty:

- Founded by a minister Shishunaga. He was succeeded by Kalasoka (IInd Buddhist council).
- Dynasty lasted for two generations only.
- Greatest achievement was the destruction of power of Avanti.

Nanda Dynasty:

- Founder was Mahapadma Nanda.
- Alexander attacked India in their reign. Dhana Nanda was there at that time.

Alexander's Invasion of India

- Alexander (356 BC – 323 BC) was the son of Philip of Macedonia (Greece) who invaded India in 326 BC.
- At that time NW India was split up into a number of small independent states like Taxila, Punjab (kingdom of Porus), Gandhara etc.
- Except Porus who fought the famous battle of Hydaspes (on banks of Jhelum) with Alexander, all other kings submitted meekly.
- Except Porus who fought the famous battle of Hydaspes (on banks of Jhelum) with Alexander, all other kings submitted meekly.
- When Alexander reached Beas, his soldiers refused to go further, so he was forced to retreat.
- To mark the farthest point of his advance, he erected 12 huge stone altars on the northern bank of Beas.
- Remained in India for 19 months & died in 323 BC at Babylon.

THE MAURYAN DYNASTY

Chandragupta Maurya (322 – 297 BC):

- With the help of Chanakya, known as Kautilya or Vishnugupta, he overthrew the Nandas & established the rule of the Maurya dynasty.
- Built a vast empire, which included not only good portions of Bihar & Bengal, but also western & north western India & the Deccan.
- This account is given by Megasthenes (A Greek ambassador sent by Seleucus to the court of Chandragupta Maurya) in his book Indica. We also get the details from the Arthashastra of Kautilya.
- Chandragupta adopted Jainism & went to Sravanabelagola (near Mysore) with Bhadrabahu, where he died by slow starvation.

Bindusara (297 – 273 BC):

- Chandragupta Maurya was succeeded by his son Bindusara in 297 BC.
- He is said to have conquered 'the land between the 2 seas', i.e., the Arabian Sea & Bay of Bengal.

Ashoka (269 – 232 BC):

- Ashoka was the most famous Mauryan king and one of the greatest rulers. Ashoka assumed the title of Priyadarshi (pleasing to look at) and Devanampriya (beloved of Gods). In the Sarnath inscription, he adopted the third title, i.e. Dharmshoka.
- Ashoka's Rock Edicts - Major rock edicts (a set of 14 inscriptions) found at following 8 places: Dhauri, Girnar, Jaguguda, Kalsi, Mansehra, Shahbazgarhi, Sopara and Yenagardi.
- Minor rock edicts found at 13 places: Bairat, Brahmagiri, Gavimath Gajarra, Jatinga-Rameshwar, Maski, Palkigunda, Meadagiri, Rupanath, Sasaram, Siddhapur, Suvarnagiri and Verragudi.

Major rock edicts-

1st Major Rock Edict- Prohibition of animal sacrifice.

2nd Major Rock Edict- Related to measures of social welfare.

3rd Major Rock Edict- Respecting one's parents.

4th Major Rock Edict- Impact of Dhamma, Non-violence towards animals.

5th Major Rock Edict- Appointment of Dhamma Mahamantras to spread Dhamma.

6th Major Rock Edict- Welfare measures of efficient.

The Kalinga War:

(261 BC, mentioned in XIII rock edict): It changed his attitude towards life. Ashoka became a Buddhist after that.

Ashoka's Dhamma

Dhamma is the Prakrit word form of the Sanskrit term 'Dharma' which means religious duty. Ashoka gave up the policy of conquest through war (dig-vijaya) and began to follow a policy of conquest through dharma (dharma-vijaya). Ashoka's Dhamma was related to norms of social behaviour and activities. Its norms are mentioned in Ashoka's edicts. Due to this policy, his name shines with unique brilliance.

Causes of the fall of Mauryan Empire:

- Ashoka's patronage of Buddhism & his anti-sacrificial attitude is said to have affected the income of the Brahmins. So, they developed antipathy against Ashoka.
- Revenue from agrarian areas was not sufficient to maintain such a vast empire as booty from war was negligible.
- Successors of Ashoka were too weak to keep together such a large centralized empire.

Note: The last Mauryan king Brihadratha was killed by Pushyamitra Shunga (Commander in Chief) in 185 BC, who started the Shunga dynasty in Magadha.

SANGAM AGE IN INDIA

Cholas :

- The kingdom was called Cholamandalam or Coromondal. The chief centre was Uraiyur, a place famous for cotton trade. Capital was Kaveripattanam/Puhar.
- A Chola king named Elara conquered Sri Lanka & ruled it over for 50 years.
- Karikala was their famous king.
- Main source of wealth was trade in cotton cloth. They also maintained an efficient navy.
- The Iron Age in South India laid the foundation stone for a golden period which began in 300 BC and lasted till 300 AD. This period, popularly known as SANGAM AGE, is widely regarded as the golden age of the Tamils.
- The literature collectively produced by the ancient Tamil poets is commonly known as the Sangam literature.
- Sangam literature makes a mention of three kingdoms – Chola, Chera and Pandiyan.

THE GUPTA DYNASTY

Gupta Empire Golden Age of India

- On the ruins of the Kushan empire arose a new empire, which established its way over a good part of the former dominions of both Kushans & Satavahanas. The first two kings of the dynasty were Srigupta & Ghatotkacha.

Chandragupta I (AD 319 - 335):

- First important king of Gupta Dynasty.
- Started the Gupta era in 319-320 AD.
- He enhanced his power & prestige by marrying Kumara Devi, princess of the Lichchavi clan of Nepal.
- He acquired the title of Maharajadhiraj.
- Struck coins in the joint names of himself, his queen & the Lichchavi nation, thereby acknowledging his marriage alliance.

Samudragupta (AD 335 – 375):

- The Gupta kingdom was enlarged enormously by Chandragupta's son & successor Samudragupta.
- Samudragupta believed in the policy of war & conquest & because of his bravery & generalship he is called the 'Napoleon' of India (by the historian V.A. Smith).

Chandragupta – II (AD 380 – 413):

- Samudragupta was succeeded by Ram Gupta but Chandragupta II killed him & married his queen Dhruvadevi.
- He was the first ruler to issue silver coins. Also issued copper coins.
- His court was adorned by celebrated nine gems (navratnas) including Kalidasa, Amarsimha, Varahmihir, & Dhanvantri.
- Chinese pilgrim Fahien visited India at this time.

Kumaragupta – I (AD 413 – 455):

- He adopted the title of Mahendraditya.
- Founded Nalanda University (a renowned university of ancient India).
- He was the worshipper of Lord Kartikeya (son of Lord Shiva).
- In the last years of his reign, the peace & prosperity of the empire was disturbed due to the invasion of Turko-Mongol tribe, Hunas. During the war with the Hunas, Kumaragupta died.

Skandagupta (AD 455 – 467):

- Kumaragupta-I was followed by Skandagupta.
- Restored Sudarshana Lake.
- After his death, the great days of the Guptas were over. The empire continued but central control weakened & local governors became feudatory kings with hereditary rights.

Gupta Literature in India:

- Kalidas, the great Sanskrit dramatist, belonged to this period. His books are: Abhigyanashakuntalam (considered as one of the best literary works in the world & one of the earliest Indian work to be translated into European language, the other work being the Bhagavadgita), Ritusamhara, Meghadutam, Kumarasambhavam, Malavikagnimitram, Raghuvansha, Vikramurvasi etc. Out of these, Ritusamhara, Meghadutam, Raghuvansha were epics & the rest were plays.
- Vishakhadatta wrote Mudrarakshasa & Devichandraguptam.
- Vishnu Sharma wrote Panchtantra & Hitopdes.
- The Gupta period also saw the development of Sanskrit grammar based on Panini & Patanjali.
- Ramayana & Mahabharata were almost completed by the 4th century AD.

Other Dynasties & Rulers (7th Century-12th Century AD)

Harshavardhana (AD 606 – 647)

- Belonged to Pushyabhuti family & son of Prabhakar Vardhan.
- Originally belonged to Thaneshwar, but shifted to Kannauj (after Harsha's death Kannauj was won from Harsha's successors by the Pratiharas).
- Chinese pilgrim, Hieun Tsang (Prince of Travelers) visited during his reign.
- Harsha himself wrote 3 plays – Priyadarshika, Ratnavali & Nagananda.
- After the death of Harsha in 647, the empire once again broke up into petty States.
- I-tsing, another Chinese pilgrim, visited in 670 AD.

The Chalukyas

1. Pulakesin I (543-566) was the first independent ruler of Badami with Vatapi in Bijapur as his capital.
2. Kirthivarma I (566-596) succeeded him at the throne. When he died, the heir to the throne, Prince Pulakesin II, was just a baby & so the king's brother, Mangalesha (597-610), was crowned the caretaker ruler. Over the years, he made many unsuccessful attempts to kill the prince but was ultimately killed himself by the prince & his friends.
3. Pulakesin II (610-642), the son of Pulakesin I, was a contemporary of Harshavardhana & the most famous of the Chalukyan kings. His reign is remembered as the greatest period in the history of Karnataka. He defeated Harshavardhana on the banks of the Narmada.
4. After conquering the Kosalas & the Kalingas, & eastern Chalukyan dynasty was inaugurated by his (Pulakeshin II) brother Kubja Vishnuvardana.
5. In 631, the Chalukyan empire extended from sea to sea. However, Pulkeshin II was defeated & probably killed in 642, when the Pallavas under Narsimhavarma I attack on their capital & captured the chalukyan capital at Badami.
6. The Chalukyas rose to power once again under the leadership of Vikramaditya I (655-681), who defeated his contemporary Pandya, Pallava & Cholas rulers to establish the supremacy of the Chalukyan empire in the region.
7. Vikramaditya II (733-745) defeated the Pallava king Nandivarma II to capture a major portion of the Pallava kingdom.
8. Vikramaditya II's son, Kirtivarma II (745), was disposed by the Rashtrakuta ruler, Dhantidurga, who established the Rashtrakuta dynasty.

THE CHOLAS (9TH TO 13TH CENTURY)

1. The Chola dynasty was one of the most popular dynasties of south India which ruled over Tamil Nadu & parts of Karnataka with Tanjore as its capital.
2. Early Chola rulers were the Karikala Cholas who ruled in the 2nd century.
3. In 850, Vijayalaya captured Tanjore during the Pandya-Pallava wars. To commemorate his accession, he built a temple at Tanjore. The giant statue of Gomateswara at Shravanbelagola was also built during this period.
4. Vijayalaya's son Aditya I (871-901) succeeded him to throne.
5. It was Rajaraja I (985-1014) during which the CHOLAS reached at its zenith. He snatched back lost territories from the Rashtrakutas & become the most powerful of the Chola rulers. Rajaraja is also famous for the beautiful shiva temple which he constructed at Thanjavur(Tamil Nadu). It is called Rajarajeswara after his name.
6. Rajendra Chola (1014-1044), son of Rajaraja I, was an important ruler of this dynasty who conquered Orissa, Bengal, Burma & the Andaman & Nicobar Island. The Cholas dynasty was at its zenith also during his reign. He also conquered Sri Lanka.
7. Kulottunga I (1070-1122) was another significant Chola ruler. Kulottunga I united the two kingdom of the eastern Chalukyas of Vengi & the Cholas of Thanjavur. After a long reign of about half a century, Kulottunga I passed away sometime in 1122 & was succeeded by his son, Vikrama Chola, surnamed Tyagasamudra.
8. The last ruler of the Chola Dynasty was Rajendra III (1246-79). He was a weak ruler who surrendered to the Pandyas. Later, Malik Kafur invaded this Tamil state in 1310 & extinguished the Chola empire.

Ancient History Multiple Choice Questions

- The Arthashastra was written by
 - Chanakya
 - Kalidasa
 - Harsha Vardhana
 - Vatsyayana
- Who wrote the Panchatantra?
 - Vyasa
 - Vishnu Sharma
 - Valmiki
 - Yajnavalkya
- Alexander defeated _____ in the battle of Hydaspes.
 - Porus
 - Chandragupta Maurya
 - Herakles
 - Eudemus
- Ramcharitmanas is an epic poem written in which language?
 - Santali
 - Munda
 - Awadhi
 - Sanskrit
- From which monument, Gautama Buddha propagated his divine knowledge of Buddhism to the world?
 - Humayun's Tomb
 - Sarnath Stupa
 - Qutub Minar
 - Red Fort Complex
- Alexander the Great was born in _____.
 - 356 BC
 - 189 BC
 - 189 AD
 - 356 AD
- Oil paint was first used for Buddhist paintings by Indian and Chinese painters in western _____ sometime between the fifth and tenth centuries.
 - Iraq
 - Afghanistan
 - Pakistan
 - India
- Kalinga War was fought in the year _____.
 - 1604 BC
 - 261 BC
 - 731 AD
 - 1113 AD
- Chandragupta Maurya was born in _____.
 - 340 BC
 - 563 BC
 - 189 BC
 - 99 BC
- Ashoka was an emperor of the _____ Dynasty.
 - Mughal
 - Chola
 - Maurya
 - Gupta
- Who built the Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram?
 - Chola Kings
 - Pallava Kings
 - Chera Kings
 - Chalukya Kings
- Bimbisara was the king of which dynasty?
 - Haryanka
 - Maurya
 - Shunga
 - Nanda
- Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra have rock-cut cave monuments of which religion?
 - Sikhism
 - Buddhism
 - Christianity
 - Hinduism
- Whose reign in Indian History is called the Golden Age of India?
 - Mughal Empire
 - Maratha Empire
 - Gupta Empire
 - Maurya Empire
- The Buddha has been eulogized as an ocean of wisdom and compassion in
 - Buddha-Charita
 - Jataka tales
 - Amarakosha
 - The Light of Aisa
- Tripitakas are related to
 - Buddhism
 - Jainism
 - Hinduism
 - Zoroastrians
- The Digambaras and Shvetambaras differ primarily with regard to their
 - Choice of god
 - Totally different philosophy
 - Dress
 - Rituals
- When did the first Huna invasion take place?
 - 358 AD
 - 458 AD
 - 558 AD
 - 658 AD
- Chandragupta (322-298 BC) was the ruler of which dynasty?
 - Maurya
 - Mewar
 - Mughal
 - Peshwas
- Ajatashatru was the son of
 - Brahmadatta
 - Bindusara
 - Bimbisara
 - Chetaka
- Ashoka converted to which religion after the Kalinga war?
 - Jainism
 - Buddhism
 - Christianity
 - Judaism
- Chandragupta Maurya was an ardent follower of _____.
 - Sikhism
 - Jainism
 - Buddhism
 - Jewism
- Chanakya was the chief advisor of _____.
 - Babur
 - Chandragupta Maurya
 - Akbar
 - Kautilya
- What is the name of the preaching mudra or gesture, in which the Buddha is depicted delivering his first sermon, in the Gandhara Sculptures?
 - Abhaya
 - Dharmachakra
 - Dhyana
 - Bhumisparsha

25. Chandragupta Maurya was born in Pataliputra, which is now in _____.
- (a) Chattisgarh (b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Bihar
26. Ghatotkacha (who ruled in the years 290–305 B.C.) was a king from which dynasty?
- (a) Gupta Dynasty (b) Kanva Dynasty
(c) Shunga Dynasty (d) Maurya Dynasty
27. Indus Valley Civilization was a _____ age civilization.
- (a) Silver (b) Tin
(c) Gold (d) Bronze
28. Which among the following games was very popular in ancient India?
- (a) Chess (b) Cricket
(c) Hockey (d) Football
29. Ashoka The Great (273–232 B.C.) was the ruler of which dynasty?
- (a) Mewar (b) Mughal
(c) Maurya (d) Peshwas
30. The first Buddhist Council was held at _____.
- (a) Kashmir (b) Rajagriha
(c) Pataliputra (d) Vaisali
31. Who was the founder of the Satvahana Empire?
- (a) Kanha (b) Simuka
(c) Hala (d) Gautamiputra
32. The people of the Indus valley civilisation worshipped _____.
- (a) Vishnu (b) Pashupati
(c) Indra (d) Brahma
33. The Upanishads are the _____.
- (a) Great Epics
(b) Story Books
(c) Source of Hindu Philosophy
(d) Law Books
34. Gandhara Art is the combination of -
- (a) Indo - Roman (b) Indo - Greek
(c) Indo - Islamic (d) Indo - China
35. The earliest reference to sati custom is made in which of the following inscriptions?
- (a) Allahabad Pillar inscription
(b) Eran inscription of Bhanugupta
(c) Aihole inscription of Pulkesin II
(d) Bhiton inscription of Skandgupta
36. Which of the following is not true about Ajanta Caves?
- (a) They are in Maharashtra
(b) They are decorated with Buddhist Art
(c) They depict the techniques used in Ancient India
(d) They do not contain paintings of flora and fauna
37. What is the Mehrauli Pillar in the complex of Qutub Minar primarily famous for?
- (a) Proverbial height
(b) Skilful stone cutting
(c) Excellent quality steel
(d) Statue of Buddha on top
38. Which script was used in Ashoka's inscriptions?
- (a) Brahmi (b) Devanagiri
(c) Gurmukhi (d) Sanskrit
39. Aryabhatta and Kalidasa were in the court of which Gupta Emperor?
- (a) Kumara Gupta I (b) Chandra Gupta II
(c) Samudra Gupta (d) Skanda Gupta
40. Which is the biggest building at Mohenjodaro?
- (a) Great Bath
(b) Great Granary
(c) Assembly Hall
(d) Rectangular Building
41. Who among the following was the court physician of Kanishka?
- (a) Vasumitra (b) Nagarjuna
(c) Charaka (d) Patanjali
42. The veda which deals with the rituals is known as _____.
- (a) Rigveda (b) Yajurveda
(c) Samaveda (d) Atharvaveda
43. The capital of the Mauryan Kingdom was located at _____.
- (a) Pataliputra (b) Vaishali
(c) Lumbini (d) Gaya
44. Where is the Brihadeshwar temple, built during the Chola period, located?
- (a) Mysore (b) Mahabalipuram
(c) Tanjavur (d) Kanyakumari
45. Kamarup is an ancient name of which region of India?
- (a) Bihar (b) Rajasthan
(c) Karnataka (d) Assam
46. The school of Indian art which is also known as the Greco-Roman-Buddhist art is the _____ school.
- (a) Mauryan (b) Shunga
(c) Gandhara (d) Gupta
47. Which of the following Pallava Kings assumed the title of "Vatapikonda" after defeating and slaying the great Chalukyan King Pulekesin II?
- (a) Narsimha Varman I
(b) Mahendra Varman I
(c) Parameshwar Varman I
(d) Nandi Varman

48. Who among the following was the first grammarian of the Sanskrit language?
 (a) Kalhana (b) Maitreyi
 (c) Kalidasa (d) Panini
49. To which clan Gautam Buddha belonged?
 (a) Shibi (b) Shakya
 (c) Saurasena (d) Shabara
50. Chachnama records the history of which conquest?
 (a) Kushanas (b) Hunas
 (c) Arabs (d) Greeks
51. A collective term used by the Jains for their sacred books is -
 (a) Prabandhas (b) Angas
 (c) Nibandhas (d) Charits
52. Match the following:
 A. Mohenjodaro 1. Two row of six granaries
 B. Harappa 2. Port
 C. Kalibangan 3. Plough marks
 D. Lothal 4. The Great Bath
Options :
 (a) A-4, B-1, C-3, D-2 (b) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1
 (c) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4 (d) A-1, B-4, C-2, D-3
53. The important book written by Kautilya is -
 (a) Arthashastra
 (b) Indica
 (c) Arya Manju Sri Mula Kapa
 (d) Rajatarangini
54. Harsha moved his capital from _____ to _____.
 (a) Thanesar, Kannauj (b) Delhi, Deogiri
 (c) Kamboj, Kannauj (d) Valabhi, Delhi
55. Who wrote 'Nyaya Sutra'?
 (a) Vyasa (b) Gautam
 (c) Kapila (d) Charaka
56. Sanchi Stupa was built by?
 (a) Akbar (b) Humayun
 (c) Ashoka (d) Narasimha
57. Who was the son of Chandragupta Maurya?
 (a) Bindusara (b) Chandragupta II
 (c) Ashoka (d) Binbsara
58. What is the name of the court poet of King Harshavardhana?
 (a) Tulsidas (b) Banabhatta
 (c) Surdas (d) Raskhan
59. Who built the Konark Sun Temple?
 (a) Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva
 (b) Narasimhadeva I
 (c) Kapilendra Deva Routaray
 (d) Purushottam Dev
60. Which emperor wrote the play 'Nagananda' in Sanskrit language?
 (a) Prabhakaravardhana (b) Harshavardhana
 (c) Chandragupta II (d) Bindusara
61. Takshashila University was located between which two rivers?
 (a) Indus and Jhelum (b) Jhelum and Ravi
 (c) Beas and Indus (d) Satluj and Indus
62. Who is the most prominent god of 'Rig Veda'?
 (a) Indra (b) Agni
 (c) Pashupati (d) Vishnu
63. Big landlords or warrior chiefs in the seventh century were acknowledged as _____ by the existing kings?
 (a) Rashtrakutas (b) Chalukya
 (c) Samantas (d) Brahmanas
64. The Chola kingdom mostly ruled which region of India?
 (a) East (b) West
 (c) North (d) South
65. Group of Monuments at Hampi was built by?
 (a) Harihara and Bukka
 (b) Udayin and Shishunaga
 (c) Devavarman and Yainya
 (d) Maravarman and Sirmara
66. According to the categories of land mentioned in the Chola inscriptions _____ was known as the land for the maintenance of schools?
 (a) Vellanvagai (b) Brahmadeya
 (c) Shalabhoga (d) Devadana
67. According to the categories of land mentioned in the Chola inscriptions _____ was known as the land of non-Brahmana peasant proprietors?
 (a) Vellanvagai (b) Brahmadeya
 (c) Shalabhoga (d) Devadana
68. According to the categories of land mentioned in the Chola inscriptions _____ was known as the land donated to Jaina institutions?
 (a) Vellanvagai (b) Brahmadeya
 (c) Shalabhoga (d) Pallichchandam
69. According to the categories of land mentioned in the Chola inscriptions _____ was known as the land gifted to Brahmanas?
 (a) Vellanvagai (b) Brahmadeya
 (c) Shalabhoga (d) Devadana
70. Dhamek Stupa was built by?
 (a) Akbar (b) Humayun
 (c) Ashoka (d) Narasimha
71. According to the categories of land mentioned in the Chola inscriptions _____ was known as the land gifted to temples?
 (a) Vellanvagai (b) Brahmadeya
 (c) Shalabhoga (d) Devadana
72. Rajendra I was the son of?
 (a) Bindusara I (b) Devabhuti I
 (c) Skanda Gupta I (d) Rajaraja I

73. What was the real name of Chanakya?
 (a) Kautilya (b) Vishnu Gupta
 (c) Ramtanu Mishra (d) None of these
74. Taxila was a famous site of
 (a) Mauryan Art (b) Gupta Art
 (c) Gandhara Art (d) Early Vedic Art
75. Who built the stupa at Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh?
 (a) Kanisha (b) Chandragupta
 (c) Ashoka (d) Harsha
76. Fourteen rock edicts of Ashoka have been unearthed at
 (a) Sasaram (b) Kandhar
 (c) Girnar (d) None of these
77. To which king belongs the Lion capital at Sarnath?
 (a) Chandragupta (b) Ashoka
 (c) Kanishka (d) Harsha
78. The name by which Ashoka is generally referred to in his inscriptions is –
 (a) Chakravarti (b) Dharmadeva
 (c) Dharmakirti (d) Piyadassi
79. The territory of Porus who offered strong resistance to Alexander was situated between the rivers of
 (a) Sutlej and Beas
 (b) Jhelum and Chenab
 (c) Ravi and Chenab
 (d) Ganga and Yamuna
80. The word Jina from which the Jainism has originated stands for
 (a) great
 (b) detached
 (c) non-violence
 (d) conqueror of senses
81. Ashokan inscriptions were first deciphered by-
 (a) Buhler (b) Robert Sewell
 (c) James Prinsep (d) Codrington
82. As a prince where was Ashoka sent to suppress the revolt?
 (a) Taxila (b) Kalinga
 (c) Ujjain (d) Deccan
83. The Hathigumpha inscription near Bhubaneswar, Orissa relates to the king?
 (a) Susharma (b) Hala
 (c) Kharavela (d) Pulamayi
84. Ashoka called the Third Buddhist Council at?
 (a) Pataliputra (b) Magadha
 (c) Kalinga (d) Sarnath
85. The main historical source regarding the information about Self-government under the Cholas is the?
 (a) Halmidi inscription
 (b) Jatwai inscription
 (c) Uttaramerur inscription
 (d) Chandravallu inscription
86. Megasthenes was at the court of
 (a) Kanishka
 (b) Ashoka
 (c) Chandragupta Maurya
 (d) Harsha
87. Who, among the following rulers, organised the Second Buddhist Assembly?
 (a) Ajatashatru (b) Kalasoka
 (c) Ashoka (d) Ananda
88. Ashoka's conquest of Kalinga has been described in the minor rock edict numbered
 (a) I (b) IV
 (c) VIII (d) XIII
89. The first Iranian ruler who brought some parts of India under his sway was
 (a) Darius I (b) Cyrus
 (c) Cambysis (d) Shaharsh
90. The most commonly used coin during the Mauryan period was
 (a) Karashapana (b) Nishka
 (c) Suvarna (d) Kakini
91. The reverential title of 'The Liberator' had been earned by
 (a) Alexander
 (b) Chandragupta Maurya
 (c) Ashoka
 (d) Chandragupta Vikramaditya
92. Who was the Greek ambassador in the court of Chandragupta Maurya?
 (a) Megasthenes (b) Seleucos
 (c) Menander (d) Demetrius
93. Ashoka expresses his faith in the Buddhist creed in the
 (a) Rummindei inscription
 (b) Schism edict
 (c) Kandhar inscription
 (d) Bhabru edict
94. In which script, the Ashokan inscription were written in North West Frontier Province?
 (a) Prakrit (b) Brahmi
 (c) Sanskrit (d) Kharoshti
95. Who among the following presided over the Buddhist council held during the reign of Kanishka at Kashmir?
 (a) Parsva (b) Vasumitra
 (c) Nagarjuna (d) Sudraka

96. The official language of the Mauryan Court was
 (a) Magadhi (b) Pali
 (c) Maithili (d) Sanskrit
97. Who constructed the 84 thousands Stupa?
 (a) Ashoka (b) Pushyamitra
 (c) Menander (d) Kanishka
98. In sixth century BC, Suktimati was the capital of
 (a) Panchala (b) Kuru
 (c) Chedi (d) Avanti
99. Who was the founder of Nanda dynasty?
 (a) Bimbisara
 (b) Dhanananda
 (c) Ramananda
 (d) Mahapadamananda
100. Which one of the following factors was not responsible for Chandragupta Maurya's success against the Nanda Kings?
 (a) Chandragupta's brilliant generalship
 (b) Kautilya's astute diplomacy
 (c) Military assistance provided by Greek rulers
 (d) Weakness of Nanda rulers
101. How are empires different from kingdoms?
 (a) Empires are larger than Kingdoms
 (b) Empires need more resources than Kingdoms
 (c) Empires need more officials who collect more taxes than Kingdoms
 (d) All of them
102. Where did Ashoka send his messengers to spread ideas about 'dhamma'. Choose the correct answer from the code given below :
 (i) Syria (ii) Egypt
 (iii) Greece (iv) Sri Lanka
 (a) Only (i) (b) Only (ii) and (iii)
 (c) Only (iv) (d) All of them
103. Which of the following was not one of the Ashoka's dhamma?
 (I) To teach the lesson of non violence through inscriptions; like a father teaches his children
 (II) To resolve conflicts amongst people and families
 (III) To perform sacrifices in order to bring peace
 (IV) To build roads, wells and inns for both humans and animals
 (a) I and III (b) Only III
 (c) III and IV (d) II and IV
104. The last Mauryan emperor was
 (a) Kunal (b) Jalok
 (c) Samprati (d) Brihadaratha
105. Who deciphered the Brahmi script ?
 (a) John F. Fleet
 (b) James Prinsep
 (c) Alexander Cunningham
 (d) John Marshall
106. Who of the following also had the name Devanampiya?
 (a) Chandragupta Maurya (b) Ashoka
 (c) Bindusara (d) Harsha
107. Who of the following was known as Amitrochates?
 (a) Chandragupta Maurya
 (b) Bindusara
 (c) Ashoka
 (d) Kautilya
108. Chanakya, the famous teacher of Chandragupta Maurya, was associated with
 (a) Nalanda (b) Vaishali
 (c) Takshashila (d) Vikramshila
109. The famous ruler of ancient India who is said to have been converted to Jainism, towards the end of his life, is
 (a) Bindusara (b) Samudragupta
 (c) Chandragupta (d) Ashoka
110. Gandhara School of Art was established in
 (a) Eastern India (b) Southern India
 (c) North-Western India (d) Western India
111. Gandhara School of art developed during the time of
 (a) Sungas (b) Kushans
 (c) Guptas (d) Mauryas
112. The earliest rock cut caves in western India are those at –
 (a) Nasik, Ellora and Ajanta
 (b) Junnar, Kalyan and Pitalkhora
 (c) Ajanta, Bhaja and Kondane
 (d) Bhaja, Pitalkhora and Kondane
113. Kanishka's capital was at
 (a) Mathura (b) Peshawar
 (c) Amravati (d) Kanauj
114. Who amongst the following is regarded as the historical founder of Jain's
 (a) Mahavira (b) Sisunaga
 (c) Rishabhanatha (d) Gautama
115. Which of the following was one of the ingredients of 'Middle Path' advocated by Buddha?
 (a) Abandonment of killing
 (b) Right effort
 (c) Speak no falsehood
 (d) Giving up hankering for wealth
116. Which of the following School accepted perception and inference as sources of valid knowledge?
 (a) Nyaya School (b) Vaisheshika
 (c) Both A & B (d) None of the above

117. Which of the following pairs of various eras and the respective years they commenced from, is wrong?
 (a) Saka Era; 78AD
 (b) Gupta Era; 318-319 AD
 (c) Vikram Era; 58 AD
 (d) Kali Era; 3102 BC
118. In whose coins was the wheel found?
 (a) Menander (b) Demetrius
 (c) Kanishka (d) Nahapana
119. One of them was not conquered by Kanishka from China. Identify.
 (a) Khotan (b) Yarkand
 (c) Kashgar (d) Kapisa
120. Who among the following is referred to as the 'Sadhu from the west' ?
 (a) Thomas of Cannan (b) St Thomas
 (c) St Bartholomew (d) None of the above
121. The largest urban centre in ancient India had been
 (a) Pataliputra (b) Kausambi
 (c) Taxila (d) Kannauj
122. What was the original name of Euthydemia?
 (a) Gondhara (b) Sakala
 (c) Kapisa (d) Purushapura
123. In whose reign did the visit of Saint Thomas take place?
 (a) Maues (b) Gondophernes
 (c) Kanishka (d) Menander
124. Who was the founder of Sunga dynasty?
 (a) Pushyagupta (b) Pushyamitra
 (c) Pushparaja (d) Pravarsena
125. Who was the founder of Kanva dynasty?
 (a) Vasumitra (b) Bhumimitra
 (c) Vasudeva (d) Devabhuti
126. Gathasaptasati was written by
 (a) Hala (b) Bharatmuni
 (c) Bhas (d) Satakarni I
127. The first inscription evidence of Satipratha has been found from
 (a) Eran (b) Junagarh
 (c) Mandasaur (d) Sanchi
128. The Kushans ruled in
 (a) 1st century AD (b) 2nd century BC
 (c) 3rd century AD (d) 5th century BC
129. The King Kanishka held a great Buddhist Council under whose presidentship?
 (a) Asvaghosha (b) Sangharaksha
 (c) Nagasena (d) Vasu Mitra
130. Charaka was the famous court physician of
 (a) Kanishka (b) Pushyamitra
 (c) Chandragupta (d) Ashoka
131. Which ruler of Gupta Empire is also known as "Napoleon of India"?
 (a) Chandragupta I (b) Chandragupta II
 (c) Samudra Gupta (d) Srigupta
132. To which period does the Mehrauli Pillar inscription belong?
 (a) Mauryas (b) Sungas
 (c) Kushanas (d) Guptas
133. The silver coins of the Gupta period were known as?
 (a) Dinar (b) Rupyaka
 (c) Satamana (d) Karshapana
134. In which field of art extraordinary progress was made in the Gupta period?
 (a) Architecture (b) Sculpture
 (c) Painting (d) Coinage
135. Against whom Skandagupta had to wage long wars on the North West border?
 (a) Shakas (b) Yavanas
 (c) Huns (d) Greeks
136. The foreign traveler who visited India during the rule of the Guptas was?
 (a) Hiuen Tsang (b) Beriner
 (c) Fa-Hein (d) Manucci
137. Which of the following was an important port of the eastern coast during the Gupta period ?
 (a) Kalyan (b) Sopara
 (c) Tamralipti (d) Broach
138. Which of the following periods is referred to as the period of Hindu revival or renaissance?
 (a) Period of Harsha (b) Kushan Period
 (c) Gupta Period (d) Mauryan Period
139. The name of the Indian Astronomer (who knew for his five astronomical systems book Pancha-Siddhantika), who lived in the 6th century was
 (a) Varahamihira (b) Bhandarkar
 (c) Pujyapada (d) Prasastapada
140. Which Avtar of Vishnu tricked Mahabali and claimed earth and heaven from him?
 (a) Vamana (b) Narasimha
 (c) Matsya (d) Kurma
141. The ammonite (Shaligrama), a fossilized shellfish, was recognized by Hindus as one of the symbols of
 (a) Brahma (b) Hanuman
 (c) Shiva (d) Vishnu
142. The fourth age of the aeon (mahayuga) is
 (a) Kali (b) Dvapara
 (c) Treta (d) Kreta
143. Angkor wat temple is located
 (a) Cambodia (b) Thailand
 (c) Vietnam (d) India

144. The Gupta gold coins were known as
 (a) Dinaras (b) Karsapana
 (c) Rupaka (d) Nisaka
145. The first Gupta ruler to assume the title of 'Param Bhagawata' was
 (a) Chandragupta I (b) Samudragupta
 (c) Chandragupta II (d) Kumargupta
146. The concept of Trimurti was promulgated during the
 (a) Mauryan period
 (b) Post-Mauryan period
 (c) Gupta period
 (d) Post-Gupta Period
147. Which of the following rulers started Gupta currency system?
 (a) Srigupta (b) Chandragupta I
 (c) Samudragupta (d) Chandragupta II
148. The officer responsible for the safe custody of land records during the Gupta period was known as
 (a) Dhruvadhikarana (b) Karanika
 (c) Samaharta (d) Shaulkika
149. Who was Samudragupta's mother?
 (a) Kumara Devi (b) Lakshmi Bai
 (c) Hazrat Mahal (d) None of them
150. Who was the first ruler to adopt the title of Maharaja-adhiraja?
 (a) Ashoka (b) Chandragupta
 (c) Tipu Sultan (d) None of them
151. A 'Sabha' in the Vedic period was a/an
 (a) Institution of professional men in villages
 (b) Royal Court
 (c) Mantri Parishad
 (d) Assembly of all Citizens
152. Who founded "MATHAS" in the four corners of India?
 (a) Madhavacharya (b) Shankaracharya
 (c) Bhaskaracharya (d) Ramanujacharya
153. When the fully developed splendid form of temple architecture emerged in India?
 (a) First century B. C.
 (b) Fourth century B. C.
 (c) Sixth century A. D.
 (d) Eleventh century A. D.
154. The important books written by Banabhatta were _____.
 (a) Harshcharita (b) Kadambari
 (c) Both of the above (d) None of the above
155. How did Hiuen Tsang undertake journey from and to India?
 (a) He came by land route and also returned by land route
 (b) He came by land route but returned by sea route
 (c) He came by sea route and returned by land route
 (d) He came by sea route and also returned by sea route
156. Who amongst the following kings defeated Harsha's army on the bank of river Narmada?
 (a) Rajendra Chola (b) Pulakesin II
 (c) Krishnadeva Raya (d) Rajendra I
157. Banabhatta, a great scholar, lived during the reign of
 (a) Ashoka (b) Harsha
 (c) Kanishka (d) Chandragupta II
158. Who wrote the biography of Harshavardhana?
 (a) Aryabhatta (b) Kalidasa
 (c) Shaka (d) Banabhatta
159. Where did Rigvedic Aryans live in India?
 (a) Northern India (b) All over India
 (c) Eastern part of India (d) Sapta Sindhu area
160. What was the name of Harshavardhana's biography?
 (a) Harshacharita (b) Harshamanglam
 (c) Harshamanas (d) None of them
161. Who wrote 'Ashtadhyayi', the earliest existing grammar of Sanskrit?
 (a) Panini (b) Sushruta
 (c) Patanjali (d) Charak
162. The Lilavati was a treatise on
 (a) Arithmetic (b) Astronomy
 (c) Philosophy (d) Medicine
163. Megasthenes "Indica" deals with the history of the
 (a) Guptas (b) Satavahanas
 (c) Cholas (d) Mauryas
164. Among the four works mentioned below which one is encyclopedic in nature?
 (a) Mamarakosa (b) Siddhantasiromani
 (c) Ashtangahridaya (d) Brihat Samhita
165. The Sanskrit drama which describes Chandragupta Maurya's triumph over the Nanda is
 (a) Mrichhakatika (b) Mudrarakshasa
 (c) Devichandragupta (d) Prabodhchandrodaya
166. 'Abhijnanasakuntalam' has been reckoned as a masterpiece of
 (a) Bhasa (b) Kalidasa
 (c) Asvaghosha (d) Sudraka
167. Which of the following was not the work of Kalidasa?
 (a) Raghuvamsa
 (b) Abhijnanasakuntalam
 (c) Kumarasambhavam
 (d) Kadambari

168. The study of inscription is known as-
- (a) Archaeology (b) Epigraphy
(c) Anthropology (d) History
169. Who of the following was the author of Meghadoota?
- (a) Vishakhdatta (b) Vishnusharma
(c) Kalidasa (d) Bhashkara
170. Gita Govinda was written by
- (a) Jayant (b) Jayadeva
(c) Jayasimha (d) Jayachandra
171. Who was the writer of Tales of Panchatantra?
- (a) Kautilya (b) Pushyagupta
(c) Vishnu Sharma (d) Vishakhdatta
172. Kautilya's Arthashastra deals with the aspects of
- (a) Political policies (b) Religious life
(c) Social life (d) None of these
173. Pulakesin II was the most famous ruler of?
- (a) Cholas (b) Chalukyas
(c) Pallavas (d) Satavahanas
174. Under whose reign were the earliest of Ajanta caves made?
- (a) Chalukyas (b) Vakatakas
(c) Satavahana (d) Kshatrapas
175. The large Shiva Temple at Thanjavur was built by
- (a) Chandellas (b) Rashtrakutas
(c) Mughals (d) Cholas
176. Among the four dynasties listed below, which one minted coins made of lead?
- (a) Mauryas (b) Satavahanas
(c) Western Kshatrapas (d) Guptas
177. Which of the following dynasties patronised the famous Kailash temple at Ellora?
- (a) Vakataka (b) Gupta
(c) Early Chalukya (d) Rastrakuta
178. Kailasa Temple, one of the largest monolithic structures, is in
- (a) Ajanta Caves (b) Elephanta Caves
(c) Ellora Caves (d) Nalanda Caves
179. The temples known as the Seven Pagodas had been built by the
- (a) Pallavas (b) Cholas
(c) Hoysalas (d) Chalukyas
180. Where did the game of Chess originate?
- (a) India (b) Persia
(c) Arabia (d) Europe
181. The lowest unit of Chola administration was the
- (a) Nadu (b) Mandalam
(c) Kurram (d) Valanadu
182. The successors of the Satavahanas in the Deccan were the
- (a) Vakatakas
(b) Kadambas
(c) Rashtrakutas
(d) Chalukyas of Badami
183. The last Nanda ruler of Magadha who was overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya with the help of Chanakya was
- (a) Mahapadmananda (b) Dhanananda
(c) Navananda (d) Not known
184. The new element of Gopuram had been encouraged in temples of southern India by the
- (a) Chalukyas (b) Pallavas
(c) Cholas (d) Pandyas
185. Madurai had been the capital of the
- (a) Cholas (b) Pallavas
(c) Rashtrakutas (d) Pandyas
186. India had a brisk foreign trade with the Roman world during the _____ period.
- (a) Sangam (b) Pallava
(c) Chola (d) Vijayanagar
187. The rulers of a dynasty of the Deccan who were supposed to be Brahmanas and staunch supporters of Brahmanism were
- (a) Satavahanas (b) Vakatakas
(c) Rashtrakutas (d) Chalukyas
188. The Pallava king who adopted the epithet of Vichitrachitta or curious minded was
- (a) Mahendravarman I
(b) Narasimhavarman I
(c) Narasimhavarman II
(d) Simhavishnu
189. Which of the following is called The Bible of Tamil?
- (a) Tolkappiyam (b) Silappadikaram
(c) Manimekalai (d) Thirukkural
190. Where is the famous Virupaksha temple located?
- (a) Bhadrachalam (b) Hampi
(c) Chidambaram (d) Srikalahasti
191. The official language of the Satavahanas was
- (a) Prakrit (b) Sanskrit
(c) Apabhramsa (d) Telugu
192. Who was the founder of Vakatak dynasty?
- (a) Vindhya Shakti (b) Ishwarsena
(c) Pravarsena (d) Rudrasena
193. Which one of the following Chola kings conquered Ceylon (Srilanka) first?
- (a) Aditya I (b) Rajaraja I
(c) Rajendra (d) Vijayalaya

194. Rath Temples at Mahabalipuram were built during the reign of which Pallava ruler?
 (a) Mahendrarvarman
 (b) Narasimahavarman I
 (c) Parameshwarvarman
 (d) Nandivarman I
195. The battle of Koppam was fought between
 (a) the Western Chalukyas and the Pallavas
 (b) the Western Chalukyas and the Cholas
 (c) the Cholas and the Hoysalas
 (d) the Pandyas and the rulers of Ceylon
196. The Chalukya king Kumarapala is said to have instituted a Jaina reformation under the guidance of
 (a) Mallinatha (b) Sthulabhadra
 (c) Nayachandra (d) Hemchandra
197. The fertile agrarian tract in the early Tamil country is denoted by the term
 (a) Palai (b) Marudam
 (c) Mullai (d) Neydal
198. The first Tamil Sangam is said to have been instituted by
 (a) Tiruvalluvar (b) Parasurama
 (c) Mamulanar (d) Agastya
199. The Kalyana-mandapa was a notable feature of temple architecture in the kingdom of
 (a) Pallavas (b) Cholas
 (c) Kadambas (d) Vijayanagara
200. Which emperor conquered and annexed the northern part of Sri Lanka and named it Mummadi Cholamandalam?
 (a) Rajaraja I (b) Parantaka I
 (c) Rajendra I (d) Rajadhiraja I
201. Sangam literature is
 (a) classical Sanskrit literature patronised by the Guptas.
 (b) Pali literature dealing with the history of the Buddhist sanghas.
 (c) early Tamil literature attributed to the history of ancient Southern India.
 (d) Sanskrit works of Puranic nature dealing with the sanctity of the place where there is the confluence of rivers in Prayaga.
202. At which of the following places were the third Sangam Literary Assemblies held?
 (a) Thanjavur (b) Kanchipuram
 (c) Madurai (d) Vanji
203. The earliest evidence of agriculture in Indian sub-continent comes from?
 (a) Koldihwa (b) Lahuradeva
 (c) Mehrgarh (d) Tokwa
204. Which among the following cities is considered as one of the oldest surviving cities in the world?
 (a) Mathura (b) Varanasi
 (c) Hardwar (d) Ayodhya
205. Pre-history means
 (a) period having written evidences
 (b) period having no written evidences
 (c) period which have all the 3 evidences like time, place and events
 (d) none of the above
206. Old stone age people
 (a) wore cotton clothes
 (b) wore leaves, barks of trees and skin of animals
 (c) wore woollen clothes
 (d) none of the above
207. The first animal tamed by primitive man was
 (a) cow (b) horse
 (c) dog (d) goat
208. Fire had been discovered in which age?
 (a) Paleolithic (b) Mesolithic
 (c) Neolithic (d) Chalcolithic
209. The Granary at Harappa was made of
 (a) bricks only (b) bricks and timber
 (c) bricks and stones (d) None of these
210. Which of the following was the most significant feature of the Indus Valley Civilization?
 (a) Economic System (b) Religious life
 (c) Town Planning (d) Social life
211. The earliest evidence regarding a ploughed field has been found from?
 (a) Lothal (b) Kalibangan
 (c) Harappa (d) Maski
212. The earliest evidence of silver in India is found in the —
 (a) Harappan culture
 (b) Chalcolithic cultures of Western India
 (c) Vedic texts
 (d) Silver punch marked coins
213. The entry port for trade between the Indus trading centres and Mesopotamia was?
 (a) Elam (b) Oman
 (c) Behrain (d) Afganistan
214. Which was the only Indus city without a citadel?
 (a) Kalibangan (b) Harappa
 (c) Mohenjodaro (d) Chanhudraro
215. The script of the Indus Valley Civilization was
 (a) Dravidian (b) Persian
 (c) Sanskrit (d) Undecipherable
216. Which of the following was common to both the Harappan society and the Rigvedic society?
 (a) Female deities (b) Urban centres
 (c) Iron implements (d) None of these

217. River Chenab was known in ancient times as
 (a) Parushni (b) Satudri
 (c) Himadri (d) Asikni
218. Who possibly ruled the Indus people?
 (a) An assembly of elders
 (b) Merchants
 (c) Kings
 (d) Priests
219. The Indus Valley Civilisation type was found in
 (a) Sumer (b) Egypt
 (c) China (d) All the three
220. The Harappan town considered to be a town of the artists and craftsmen was
 (a) Mohenjo-Daro (b) Chanhudaro
 (c) Harappa (d) Lothal
221. Which of the following metals was not known to the Indus Valley people?
 (a) tin (b) lead
 (c) iron (d) copper
222. The first metal used by man was
 (a) Copper (b) Iron
 (c) Aluminium (d) Gold
223. Which one of the following was not common between the Indus Valley people and the Vedic Aryans?
 (a) meat eating
 (b) cattle rearing
 (c) use of cotton clothes
 (d) worship of Mother-Goddess
224. Which of these help you to know about Indus Valley Civilization?
 (a) coin inscriptions
 (b) archaeological evidences
 (c) literary sources
 (d) none of the above
225. Which of the following is known as "Mini Harappa"?
 (a) Mohanjodaro (b) Lothal
 (c) Kalibangan (d) Rangpur
226. A clay model of plough has been found from:
 (a) Banawali (b) Kalibangan
 (c) Rakhigarhi (d) Mitathal
227. The local name of Mohenjodaro is:
 (a) Mound of Living (b) Mound of Survivor
 (c) Mound of Dead (d) Mound of Great
228. Codes of conduct of the Vedic Society are laid down in
 (a) Puranas (b) Vedas
 (c) Brahmanas (d) Smritis
229. Which of the following was not one of the distinguished tribes of the later Vedic period?
 (a) Videhas (b) Bharatas
 (c) Panchalas (d) Kurus
230. In Rig Vedic period, the most important functionary after the king was
 (a) Purohita (b) Senani
 (c) Law Officer (d) Tax Collector
231. The tax which the kings used to collect from the people in the Vedic period was called
 (a) Kara (b) Varman
 (c) Bali (d) Vidatha
232. In the Vedic Society, the term used to denote a group of families was
 (a) gotra (b) jana
 (c) vish (d) grama
233. The Puranas are in number.
 (a) 18 (b) 25
 (c) 52 (d) 108
234. Which of the following Vedangas contains the Srautra, the Grihya and the Dharma Sutras?
 (a) Nirukta (b) Shiksha
 (c) Chhandas (d) Kalpa
235. Which one of the following is the earliest school of Indian philosophy?
 (a) Samkhya (b) Yoga
 (c) Karma mimamsa (d) None of these
236. The world is God and God is my soul is the philosophy contained in the
 (a) Vedas (b) Puranas
 (c) Brahamanas (d) Upanishads
237. The Upanishads are
 (a) prayers to God
 (b) books of ancient Hindu laws
 (c) books on social behavior of man
 (d) a source of Hindu philosophy
238. The term 'Yavanapriya' mentioned in ancient Sanskrit texts denoted?
 (a) Ivory
 (b) Pepper
 (c) A fine variety of Indian muslin
 (d) Damsels sent to the Greek court for dance performance
239. The number of Vedas is
 (a) Eight (b) Four
 (c) Ten (d) Two
240. The Vedic deity Indra was the God of
 (a) fire (b) rain and thunder
 (c) eternity (d) wind

241. The term 'nishka' which meant an ornament in the Vedic period was used in later times to denote a/an—
 (a) Weapon
 (b) Agricultural implement
 (c) Script
 (d) Coin
242. What was the type of marriage in the Vedic period in which, in place of the dowry, there was a token bride price of a cow and a bull?
 (a) Asura (b) Arsa
 (c) Gandharva (d) Rakshsa
243. The oldest Veda is?
 (a) Atharva Veda (b) Rig Veda
 (c) Yajur Veda (d) Sama Veda
244. The earliest tribal assembly was?
 (a) Gana (b) Vidhata
 (c) Samiti (d) Sabha
245. Name the Rig Vedic who is believed to be the upholder of the "Rita" or Cosmic order.
 (a) Agni (b) Soma
 (c) Indra (d) Varuna
246. To whom is the Gayatri Mantra dedicated?
 (a) Savitri (A solar deity)
 (b) Surya (Sun)
 (c) Soma (God of the intoxicating juice)
 (d) Maruts (Storm Gods)
247. The Rig veda Samhita devotes one fourth of its hymns to:
 (a) Indra (b) Maruts
 (c) Rudra (d) Agni
248. Match the following:
 Terms Meaning
 (a) Griha I. Ruled Over west Gandhara
 (b) Gramani II. Head of Village
 (c) Vis III. Basic unit of Rig Vedic Society
 (d) Druhyas IV. Clan
A B C D
 (a) III II IV I
 (b) I II III IV
 (c) II III IV V
 (d) IV III II I
 (a) a (b) b
 (c) c (d) d
249. Which of the following Vedangas contains the Srauta, Grahya and Dharma Sutras?
 (a) Shiksha (b) Kalpa
 (c) Nirukta (d) Chhanda
250. Which School is originally called Sanatana Dharma?
 (a) Nastika School (b) Astika School
 (c) Both of the above (d) None of the above
251. The famous vedic saying "war begins in the minds of men" is contained in the
 (a) Mundakopanishad (b) Mahabharata
 (c) Rig Veda (d) Atharva Veda
252. The philosophical essence, "The world is but God manifest and God is my own soul" may be traced to the
 (a) Vedas (b) Upanishadas
 (c) Puranas (d) Manusmriti
253. In the Rigveda the term Dasas and Dasyus refers to
 (a) robbers (b) tribals
 (c) non-Aryans (d) menials
254. The most important craftsman in the Vedic period was the
 (a) blacksmith (b) goldsmith
 (c) carpenter (d) barber
255. Mahabharata was also known as
 (a) Brihat Katha (b) Rajatarangini
 (c) Jaya Samhita (d) Purana
256. Which of the following philosophies was preached by AdiSankara?
 (a) Raja Yoga (b) Snakhya Yoga
 (c) Advaita (d) Dvaita
257. Which of the following rivers does not find frequent mention in Rigvedic Hymns?
 (a) Ganges (b) Sindhu
 (c) Brahmaputra (d) Saraswati
258. The ritualistic precepts pertaining to the hymns of the Vedas are known as the
 (a) Samhitas (b) Aranyakas
 (c) Brahmanas (d) Upanishads
259. The god whose worship had not gained ground in the Rigvedic period was
 (a) Marut (b) Lord Shiva
 (c) Agni (d) Indra
260. Two most important acts and rituals associated with the Vedic marriage system was/were
 (a) Pani-Grahana
 (b) Sapta-Padi
 (c) Both(a) and (b) above
 (d) Marriage Vows
261. The famous Vedic river which had long ago become extinct and now supposed to be flowing underground in Rajasthan is
 (a) Sindhu (b) Sabastu
 (c) Shatudri (d) Saraswati

262. According to Ancient Indian legendary sources, Surabhi was a/an
 (a) wish-fulfilling tree
 (b) treasure in the form of a cow, churned from the cosmic ocean
 (c) medicine prepared by Dhanvantri
 (d) intoxicating drink consumed during religious ceremonies in ancient times
263. The first one, among the following, to deal with music was
 (a) Rig Veda (b) Yajur Veda
 (c) Sama Veda (d) Atharva Veda
264. The staple food of the Vedic Aryan was :
 (a) Barley and rice
 (b) Rice and pulse
 (c) Vegetables and fruits
 (d) Milk and its products
265. Who among the following is regarded as War God in Rigveda?
 (a) Agni (b) Indra
 (c) Surya (d) Varuna
266. During the Rigvedic period, 'Niska' was an ornament of :
 (a) Ear (b) Neck
 (c) Arm (d) Wrist
267. The famous 'Battle of Kings' between Bharat and the host of ten kings was fought near the river
 (a) Sindhu (b) Saraswati
 (c) Parushni (d) Vitasta
268. Satpatha Brahmana is related to :
 (a) Rigveda (b) Yajurveda
 (c) Samaveda (d) Atharvaveda
269. Who was the first European to designate 'Aryans' as a race?
 (a) Sir William Jones
 (b) H. H. Wilson
 (c) Max Muller
 (d) General Cunningham
270. Which one of the following went to Sri Lanka to spread Buddhism?
 (a) Ashoka (b) Samudragupta
 (c) Sanghamitra (d) Chitragupta
271. Who of the following kings was an ardent follower of Jainism?
 (a) Bimbisara
 (b) Mahapadma Nanda
 (c) Kharavela
 (d) Pulakesin - II
272. Among the following, who is given the credit of carrying Jainism in South India?
 (a) Sudharmana (b) Indrabhuti
 (c) Bhadrabahu (d) Sthulabhadra
273. Where did Buddha die?
 (a) Lumbini (b) Kushinagar
 (c) Pavapuri (d) Magadha
274. The language of discourses of Gautama Buddha was?
 (a) Bhojpuri (b) Magadhi
 (c) Sanskrit (d) Pali
275. The trident-shaped symbol of Buddhism does not represent
 (a) Nirvana (b) Sangha
 (c) Buddha (d) Dhamma
276. The term Nirgrantha is associated with?
 (a) Ajivikas (b) Charvakas
 (c) Jains (d) Pasupatas
277. To which of the republic of Buddha belong?
 (a) Mallas (b) Sakyas
 (c) Licchavis (d) None of the above
278. The Buddhist Sect Mahayana formally came into existence during the reign of –
 (a) Ajatashatru (b) Ashoka
 (c) Dharmapala (d) Kanishka
279. Tripitakas are sacred books of
 (a) Buddhists (b) Hindus
 (c) Jains (d) None of the above
280. The last in succession of Jaina Tirthankaras was –
 (a) Parsvanatha (b) Rishabha
 (c) Mahavira (d) Manisubrata
281. In Jainism 'perfect knowledge' is referred to as –
 (a) Jina (b) Ratna
 (c) Kaivalya (d) Nirvanas
282. Kapilavasthu is associated with
 (a) Emperor Ashoka
 (b) Sri Krishnadeva Raya
 (c) Lord Mahavira
 (d) Lord Buddha
283. In ancient India, Nalanda University represented a great centre for the study of
 (a) Mahayana Buddhism
 (b) Hinduism
 (c) Hinayana Buddhism
 (d) Jainism
284. The Hindu painting was closely connected with pictorial art of the
 (a) Buddhist priests
 (b) Jain monks
 (c) Artistic schools of the Far East
 (d) Mughal school
285. What is the name of the preaching mudra or gesture, in which the Buddha is depicted delivering his first sermon?
 (a) Abhaya (b) Dharmachakra
 (c) Dhyana (d) Bhumisparsha

286. The word Jina from which the Jainism has originated stands for
 (a) great (b) detached
 (c) non-violence (d) conqueror of senses
287. Who was the greatest Buddhist commentator of the Bhuddhist canonical literature?
 (a) Nagarjuna (b) Ashvaghosha
 (c) Vasumitra (d) Buddhaghosha
288. A dominant majority of the images at Ajanta are those of
 (a) Lord Shiva (b) The Buddha
 (c) Hanuman (d) Parvati
289. Who, among the following rulers, organised the Second Buddhist Assembly?
 (a) Ajatashatru (b) Kalasoka
 (c) Ashoka (d) Ananda
290. The term "Tirthankaras" is associated with
 (a) Hinduism (b) Jainism
 (c) Buddhism
291. The last in the succession of Jaina Tirthankaras was
 (a) Parsvanatha (b) Rishabha
 (c) Mahavira (d) Manisubruta
292. Hieun Tsang found Jainism flourishing in
 (a) Orissa (b) Kashmir
 (c) Bengal (d) Bihar
293. In which of the following Pitak the code of conduct is mentioned which is followed by Buddhist follower?
 (a) Sutta Pitaka (b) Abhidhamma Pitaka
 (c) Vinay Pitaka (d) None of the above
294. Who amongst the following is known as the Light of Asia?
 (a) Jesus Christ (b) Lord Buddha
 (c) Prophet Mohammad (d) Zarathustra
295. At which place, did Gautam Buddha give his first sermon?
 (a) Vaishali (b) Vallabhi
 (c) Rajgriha (d) Sarnath
296. Who presided over the fourth Buddhist council in Kashmir?
 (a) Asvagosha (b) Upagupta
 (c) Vasumitra (d) Mahakasyapa
297. Where did Ashoka send his son Mahendra as a Buddhist missionary to?
 (a) Ceylon (b) Nepal
 (c) Tibet (d) Khotan
298. Mention the place where Buddha attained enlightenment
 (a) Rajgriha (b) Bodhgaya
 (c) Kapilavastu (d) Sarnath
299. Hathigumpha inscription is attributed to which of the following emperors?
 (a) Ashoka (b) Chandragupta II
 (c) Samudragupta (d) Kharavela
300. Chola Empire was divided into:
 (a) Mandalams, Nadu, Kurram & Valanadu
 (b) Mandalams, Nadu, Malkhand & Avanti
 (c) Mandalams, Bhoomi, Avanti & Valanadu
 (d) Mandalams, Nadu, Kurram & Malkhand

Solutions

1. (a); The Arthashastra is the title of a handbook for running an empire, written by Kautilya (also known as Chanakya, c. 350-275 BCE) an Indian statesman and philosopher, chief advisor and Prime Minister of the Indian Emperor Chandragupta, the first ruler of the Mauryan Empire.
2. (b); Vishnu Sharma wrote Panchatantra
3. (a); Alexander defeated Porus in the battle of Hydaspes.
4. (c); Ramcharitmanas is an epic poem written in Awadhi language
5. (b); Gautam Buddha delivered his first sermon to five disciples at Sarnath. Sarnath Stupa monument is built on site where Gautama Buddha propagated his divine knowledge of Buddhism to the world
6. (a); Alexander III of Macedon commonly known as Alexander the Great. He was born in Pella in 356 BC and succeeded his father Philip II to the throne at the age of twenty
7. (b); Oil paint was first used for Buddhist paintings by Indian and Chinese painters in western Afghanistan sometime between the fifth and tenth centuries
8. (b); The Kalinga War (262 – 261 BCE) was fought between the Maurya Empire under Ashoka and the state of Kalinga, an independent feudal kingdom located on the east coast, in

- the present-day state of Odisha north of Andhra Pradesh
9. (a); Chandragupta Maurya was born in 340 BC in Pataliputra, in modern-day Bihar. His background is, however, uncertain. Some claim that he was born to a Nanda prince and his maid-servant, Mura, from the Shudra caste, while others state that he belonged to the Moriya tribe of Peacock-tamers
 10. (c); Ashoka was an Indian emperor of the Maurya Dynasty, who ruled almost all of the Indian subcontinent from c. 268 to 232 BCE
 11. (b); Mahabalipuram is the ancient sea port of the famous Pallava kingdom. According to the inscriptions, the monuments of Mahabalipuram was constructed by Pallava kings Mahendravarman I (600 to 630 AD), his son Narasimhavarman I (630 to 668 AD) and their descendants.
 12. (a); Bimbisara (ruled 544-491 B.C.E.) was a king of the Magadha empire and belonged to Haryanaka dynasty, which ruled until approximately 326 B.C.E. when Alexander the Great invaded India. He ruled an area of what is now Bihar and Bengal with his capital at modern day Rajgir
 13. (b); The Ajanta Caves are a series of 29 Buddhist cave temples in Ajanta, India, some of which date from the 2nd century BC. Encompassing both Theravada and Mahayana Buddhist traditions, the Ajanta caves preserve some of the best masterpieces of Buddhist art in India
 14. (c); The Gupta Empire stretched across northern, central and parts of southern India between c. 320 and 550 CE. The time of the Gupta Empire is referred to as Golden Age of India in science, mathematics, astronomy, religion and philosophy
 15. (c); Buddha has been eulogized as an Ocean of Wisdom and Compassion in Amarakosha. The Amarakosha is a thesaurus of Sanskrit written by the ancient Indian scholar Amarasimha
 16. (a); The Tripitakas are sacred books for Buddhists
 17. (c); Digambara monks do not wear any clothes. Svetambara "white-clad" is a term describing its ascetics practice of wearing white clothes
 18. (b); First Huna invasion take place in 458AD
 19. (a); Chandragupta Maurya (reign: 322-298 BCE) was the founder of the Maurya Empire in ancient India.
 20. (c); Ajatashatru was a king of the Haryanka dynasty of Magadha in North India. He was the son of King Bimbisara and was a contemporary of both Mahavira and Gautama Buddha
 21. (b); Ashoka converted to Buddhism after Kalinga war
 22. (b); Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of the Mauryan empire. He succeeded in conquering most of the Indian subcontinent. With his accession to the throne Janism assumed a new phase in the Indian history
 23. (b); Chanakya was an Indian teacher, philosopher, economist, jurist and royal advisor. He is traditionally identified as Kauṭilya or Vishnugupta, who authored the ancient Indian political treatise, the Arthashastra
 24. (c); In Buddhism, Dharmachakra mudra expresses the continuous energy (symbolized by a wheel/chakra) of the cosmic order. This mudra is associated with Buddha's first sermon, or teaching
 25. (d); The Mauryas. With the rise of the Mauryan empire (321 BC-185 BCE), Patna, then called Pataliputra became the seat of power and nerve center of the Indian subcontinent
 26. (a); King Ghatotkacha Gupta was the second ruler of the Guptadynasty. He ruled from 280 AD - 319 AD. King Ghatotkacha, was a pre-imperial king of Northern India. He was the son of Maharaja Sri Gupta, the founder of Gupta Dynasty
 27. (d); The Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC), or Harappa Civilisation, was a Bronze Age civilisation (3300-1300 BCE; mature period 2600-1900 BCE) mainly in the northwestern regions of South Asia, extending from what today is northeast Afghanistan to Pakistan and northwest India

28. (a); In ancient India Chess was very popular game
29. (c); Ashoka, or Ashoka the Great, was an Indian emperor of the Maurya Dynasty, who ruled almost all of the Indian subcontinent from c. 268 to 232 BCE
30. (b); The first Buddhist council was held at Rajgriha in 483 B.C. under chairmanship of Mahakassapa and patronage of King Ajatashatru
31. (b); Simuka is described as the first king in a list of royals in a Satavahana inscription at Naneghat. The beginning of the Satavahana rule is dated variously from 271 BCE to 30 BCE
32. (b); The people of the Indus valley civilisation worshipped Pashupati
33. (c); The Upanishads are the source of Hindu Philosophy. The Upanishads are a collection of texts of religious and philosophical nature, written in India probably between c. 800 BCE and c. 500 BCE
34. (b); Gandhara Art is the combination of Indo-Greek style. Gandhara Art developed in first century AD. Both Shakas and Kushanas were patrons of Gandhara school
35. (b); The earliest reference to sati custom is made in Eran inscription of Bhanugupta
36. (c); The Ajanta Caves are about 29 rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments which date from the 2nd century BCE to about 480 or 650 CE in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra state of India. They do not contain paintings of flora and fauna. They did not depict the techniques used in Ancient India
37. (c); Mehrauli Pillar in the complex of Qutub Minar primarily famous for excellent quality steel
38. (a); Brahmi script was used in Ashoka's inscriptions
39. (b); Aryabhatta and Kalidasa were in the court of Chandragupta II
40. (b); Mohenjo-Daro was the largest city of the Indus valley civilization. A granary has been found which is the largest building of the Mohenjo-Daro
41. (c); Charak was the court physician of Kanishka I. He was one of the principal contributors to the ancient art and science of Ayurveda, a system of medicine and lifestyle developed in Ancient India. He is sometimes referred to as the Father of Indian Medicine
42. (b); The Veda which deals with the rituals is known as Yajurveda. Rigveda is collection of hymns
43. (a); The Maurya Empire was first founded by Chandragupta Maurya c. 320 B.C.E. The capital of the Mauryan Kingdom was located at Pataliputra
44. (c); Brihadeshwara is the title referring Lord Shiva enshrined in the Tanjore Big Temple built by Raja Raja Chola I and consecrated more than a thousand years back in 1010 AD. It is located in Tanjavur
45. (d); Kamarupa (or Kamrupa, or even Kamrup) was an ancient Indian region in south-eastern Bengal and Assam. It was known as Pragjyotisha in mythology
46. (c); Gandhara art, style of Buddhist visual art that developed in what is now northwestern Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan between the 1st century BCE and the 7th century CE. The style, of Greco-Roman origin, seems to have flourished largely during the Kushan dynasty and was contemporaneous with an important but dissimilar school of Kushan art at Mathura
47. (a); Narsimha Varman took the title of Vatapikonda when he defeated Pulakeshin II and captured Vatapi after the Battle of Vatapi in 642 AD.
48. (d); Panini was the first grammarian of the Sanskrit language. Ashtadhyayi Sanskrit treatise on grammar in Sanskrit language was written in the 6th to 5th century BCE by the Indian grammarian Panini
49. (b); Gautam Buddha belongs to the Shakya clan
50. (c); Chachnama is one of the only written sources about the Arab conquest of Sindh, and therefore the origins of Islam in India, the Chach Nama is a key historical text that has been co-opted by different interest groups for several centuries, and it has significant implications for modern imaginings about the place of Islam in South Asia

51. (b); A collective term used by the Jains for their sacred books is Angas. In other words, Angas (also known as agamas) are sacred texts of Jainism based on the discourse of the tirthankara
52. (a); Mohenjodaro-The great bath
Harrapa - Two row of six granaries
Lothal- Port
Kalibangan-Plough marks
53. (a); Arthashastra is written by Kautilya (also known as Chanakya, c. 350-275 BCE) an Indian statesman and philosopher, chief advisor and Prime Minister of the Indian Emperor Chandragupta, the first ruler of the Mauryan Empire.
54. (a); Harsha Vardhan ascended the throne in 606 AD. After his accession, King Harshavardhan united the two kingdoms of Thanesar (now Kurukshetra) and Kannauj. He also shifted his capital from Thanesar to Kannauj.
55. (b); The Nyaya Sutras is an ancient Indian Sanskrit text composed by Akṣapada Gautama, and the foundational text of the Nyaya school of Hindu philosophy.
56. (c); Sanchi is a Buddhist complex, famous for its Great Stupa, on a hilltop at Sanchi Town in Raisen District of the State of Madhya Pradesh, India. Sanchi is one of the oldest stone structure in India and was originally commissioned by the emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE
57. (a); Bindusara was second Emperor of Mauryan Dynasty. He was son of Chandragupta Maurya
58. (b); Bana-Bhatt was court poet of King Harshavardhana.
59. (b); Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century CE Sun Temple at Konark in Odisha, India. It is believed that the temple was built by king Narasimhadeva I of Eastern Garg Dynasty in 1255 CE. The temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This temple is also known as "black pagoda" as it is built up of black stones
60. (b); Nagananda (Joy of the Serpents) is a Sanskrit play attributed to king Harshavardhana (ruled 606 C.E. - 648 C.E.)
61. (a); Taxila was a centre of learning and is considered by some to have been one of the earliest universities in the world. It is an important archaeological site and in 1980, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was located between Indus and Jhelum
62. (a); Indra is the most prominent god of 'Rig Veda'
63. (c); Big landlords or warrior chiefs in the seventh century were acknowledged as Samantas by the existing kings. Samanta was a title and position used by the army people of Kings
64. (d); The Chola dynasty was one of the longest-ruling dynasties in the history of southern India
65. (a); Group of Monuments at Hampi are a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in east-central Karnataka, India. It was built by Harihara and Bukka
66. (c); According to the categories of land mentioned in the Chola inscriptions, Shalabhoga was known as the land for the maintenance of schools
67. (a); Vellanvagai is the land of non-Brahmana peasant proprietors according to the different categories of land which are mentioned in Chola inscriptions
68. (d); According to the categories of land mentioned in chola inscriptions, Pallichchandam was known as the land donated to Jaina institutions
69. (b); Brahmadeya was tax free land gift either in form of single plot or whole villages donated to Brahmans in the Chola period
70. (c); The Dhamek Stupa was built by the great Mauryan king Ashoka in 249 BCE. It is a massive stupa located at Sarnath, 13 km away from Varanasi in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India
71. (d); According to the categories of land mentioned in the Chola inscriptions, Devadana was known as the land gifted to temples
72. (d); Rajendra I was the son of Chola King Rajaraja.

73. (b); Chanakya was an Indian teacher, philosopher, economist, jurist and royal advisor during mauryan period. He is traditionally identified as Kauṭilya or Vishnugupta, who authored the ancient Indian political treatise, the Arthashastra
74. (a); Taxila was an ancient city in what is now northwestern Pakistan. It is an important archaeological site and in 1980, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Taxila came under the control of Chandragupta Maurya, who turned Taxila into a regional capital. Taxila is famous for oldest university in the world
75. (c); Great Stupa at Sanchi is an important Buddhist monument. It is built by Emperor Ashoka in 3rd century B.C to honor Lord Buddha. It is a world heritage site in Madhya Pradesh
76. (c); Fourteen rock edicts found in Girnar in Junagadh, Gujarat. It bears inscriptions in Brahmi.
77. (b); The Lion Capital of Ashoka is a sculpture of four Asiatic lions standing back to back, on an elaborate base that includes other animals. A graphic representation of it was adopted as the official Emblem of India in 1950. It was originally placed atop the Aśoka pillar at the important Buddhist site of Sarnath by the Emperor Ashoka, in about 250 BCE
78. (d); In the inscription for the first time the name of Ashoka was found with titles like Devanampiya and Piyadassi
79. (b); The territory of Porus who offered strong resistance to Alexander was situated between the rivers of Jhelum and Chenab
80. (d); Followers of Jainism are called "Jains", a word derived from the Sanskrit word jina ('victor') and connoting the path of victory in crossing over life's stream of rebirths through an ethical and spiritual life
81. (c); The Ashokan inscriptions found in the eastern part of India were written in Magadhi Prakrit using the Brahmi script. These edicts were deciphered by British archaeologist and historian James Prinsep
82. (a); Taxila was an ancient city in what is now northwestern Pakistan. It is an important archaeological site and in 1980, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Taxila came under the control of Chandragupta Maurya, who turned Taxila into a regional capital. Taxila is famous for oldest university in the world
83. (c); The Hathigumpha Inscription, from Udayagiri, near Bhubaneswar in Odisha, was inscribed by Kharavela, the then Emperor of Kalinga in India, during 2nd century BCE
84. (a); Third Buddhist council was held in 250 BC at Pataliputra under the patronage of King Asoka and under the presidency of Moggaliputta Tissa. The teachings of Buddha which were under two baskets were now classified in 3 baskets as Abhidhamma Pitaka was established in this council, and they were known as "Tripitaka". It also tried to settle all the disputes of Vinaya Pitaka
85. (c); The temple inscriptions of Uthiramerur are notable for their historical descriptions of the rural self-governance. They indicate that Uthiramerur had two village assemblies: Sabha and Ur. Chola administration is famous for its local government
86. (c); Megasthenes was born in Asia Minor and became an ambassador of Seleucus I Nicator of the Seleucid dynasty to Chandragupta Maurya in Pataliputra, India. Indica is an account of Mauryan India by Megasthenes
87. (b); It was held in 383 BC. This idea of this council was to settle a dispute on Vinaya Pitaka, the code of discipline. It was held at Vaishali under the patronage of King Kalasoka and the presidency of Sabakami
88. (d); Ashoka conquest of kalinga mention in Rock edict XIII
89. (a); Darius the Great, he ruled the empire at its peak, when it included much of West Asia, the Caucasus, parts of the Balkans most of the Black Sea coastal regions, parts of the North Caucasus, Central Asia, as far as the Indus Valley in the far east, and portions of north and northeast Africa including Egypt

90. (a); Karashapana is one of the coin which is widely used during mauryan period
91. (b); Chandragupta Maurya (reign: 321–298 BCE) was the founder of the Maurya Empire in ancient India. Chandragupta built one of the largest empires ever in the Indian subcontinent. According to Jain sources, he became a monk in the Jain tradition in the last phase of his life and earned the title of 'The Liberator'
92. (a); Megasthenes was born in Asia Minor and became an ambassador of Seleucus I Nicator of the Seleucid dynasty to Chandragupta Maurya in Pataliputra, India. Indica is an account of Mauryan India by Megasthenes
93. (d); Bhabru is a minor edict which is located at second hill at Bairat, Rajasthan
94. (d); The Kharosthi Script was more or less contemporarily with the Brahmi script, appearing around the 3rd century BCE mainly in modern-day northern Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan
95. (b); The Fourth Buddhist Council was held at Kundalvana, Kashmir in 72 AD under the patronage of Kushan king Kanishka and the president of this council was Vasumitra, with Asvaghosa as his deputy. This council distinctly divided the Buddhism into 2 sects Mahayana & Hinayana
96. (a); The Magadhi language, also known as Magadhi Prakrit, is a language spoken in parts of India and Nepal. Magadhi Prakrit was the ancestor of Magadhi
97. (a); Stupas are the famous Buddhist sacred buildings, places of pilgrimage and the high reverence in the Buddhist world since the ancient times. Ashoka build 84 thousand stupa for spreading Buddhism
98. (c); Suktimati was the capital city of the Chedi Kingdom in India. It lay on the banks of the river Shuktimati flowing through Chedi. It was built by a Chedi king known as Uparichara Vasu
99. (d); Mahapadma Nanda was the first king of the Nanda dynasty
- 100.(c); Chandragupta Maurya (reign: 321–298 BCE) was the founder of the Maurya Empire in ancient India.He ended nanda dyanasty and established mauryan dynasty.
- Chandragupta built one of the largest empires ever in the Indian subcontinent. According to Jain sources, he became a monk in the Jain tradition in the last phase of his life
- 101.(d); Empire is a group of countries that are controlled by one ruler / government. Kingdom is a country ruled by a king (or queen)
- 102.(d); Ashoka send his messengers to spread ideas about 'dhamma' in Syria, Egypt, Greece and srilanka
- 103.(b); Ashoka's dhamma was neither a new religion nor a new political philosophy, it was a way of life, a code of conduct and a set of principles to be adopted and practised by the people at large. The word Dhamma is the Prakrit form of the Sanskrit word Dharma
- 104.(d); Brihadaratha Maurya was the last ruler of the Maurya Empire. He ruled from c. 187 – c. 180 BCE. He was killed by his general, Pushyamitra Shunga, who went on to establish the Shunga Empire
- 105.(b); The best-known Brahmi inscriptions are the rock-cut edicts of Ashoka in north-central India, dating to 250–232 BCE. The script was deciphered in 1837 by James Prinsep, an archaeologist, philologist, and official of the East India Company
- 106.(b); In the inscription for the first time the name of Ashoka was found with titles like Devanampiya and Piyadassi
- 107.(b); Bindusara, Greek Amitrochates (born c. 320 bce – died 272/3 bce), second Mauryan emperor, who ascended the throne about 297 B.C. He was the son of the dynasty's founder Chandragupta, and the father of its most famous ruler Ashoka
- 108.(c); Chanakya was an Indian teacher, philosopher, economist, jurist and royal advisor. He is traditionally identified as Kautilya or Vishnugupta, who authored the ancient Indian political treatise, the Arthashastra.He is associated with the Takshashila which is one of the oldest university in the world
- 109.(c); Chandragupta Maurya (reign: 321–298 BCE) was the founder of the Maurya Empire in

ancient India. He ended the Nanda dynasty and established the Mauryan dynasty. Chandragupta built one of the largest empires ever in the Indian subcontinent. According to Jain sources, he became a monk in the Jain tradition in the last phase of his life

- 110.(c); The Gandhara School of art had also developed in first century AD along with Mathura School, both Shakas and Kushanas were patrons of Gandhara School. Its influence is in the north western portion of India (includes Afghanistan and Pakistan)
- 111.(b); The Gandhara School of art had also developed in first century AD along with Mathura School, both Shakas and Kushanas were patrons of Gandhara School. It is also known as Greco-Buddhist School of art.
- S112. (a); The earliest rock cut caves in western India are Ajanta which is dedicated to Buddhism, Elora cave is dedicated to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism. They are located in Maharashtra
- 113.(b); Kanishka came to rule an empire in Bactria extending from Turfan in the Tarim Basin to Pataliputra on the Gangetic plain. The main capital of his empire was located at Purushapura modern day Peshawar
- 114.(c); The Jains claim their religion to be eternal, and consider Rishabhanatha to be the founder in the present time-cycle, and someone who lived for 8,400,000 Purva years. Rishabhanatha is among the first of 24 Jain Tirthankaras who are considered to be mythical figures by historians
- 115.(b); The Eightfold Path of Buddhism, also called the Middle Path or Middle Way, is the system of following these eight divisions of the path to achieve spiritual enlightenment and cease suffering
- 116.(b); Vaisheshika is one of the six orthodox schools of Hinduism from ancient India. Vaisheshika school is known for its insights in naturalism, and it is a form of atomism in natural philosophy
- 117.(c); In India, there are two commonly used calendars - The first one is the Saka which starts from 78 AD when the Shalivahana

king of South India defeated the Saka king of Malwa and the second one is called the Vikram calendar which starts from 57 BC. Gupta era started from 318-319 AD used by Gupta emperors and Kali era is dated to 3102 BC

- 118.(a); Menander has left behind an immense corpus of silver and bronze coins, more so than any other Indo-Greek king. During his reign, the fusion between Indian and Greek coin standards reached its apogee
- 119.(d); Kapisa is one of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Located in the north-east of the country. Its capital is Mahmud-i-Raqi
- 120.(b); Saint Thomas is traditionally believed to have sailed to India in 52AD to spread the Christian faith, and is believed to have landed at the port of Muziris. He is known as 'Sadhu from the West'.
- 121.(a); Pataliputra (now Patna) is located at the confluence of the Ganges and Son Rivers in northeastern India. It was the capital city of the Mauryan Empire 326-184 B.C. It was perhaps the largest city in the world. It was one of the biggest urban centres in ancient history
- 122.(b); Euthydemia or Sakala of Hindus and Sagala of Buddhists was an ancient city, capital of Indo-Greek King Menander, now city is located in modern-day Sialkot, Pakistan
- 123.(b); Thomas is traditionally believed to have sailed to India in 52AD to spread the Christian faith, and is believed to have landed at the port of Muziris in the region of Gondophernes
- 124.(b); The Sunga dynasty was established by Pushyamitra Shunga, after the fall of the Maurya Empire and its capital was Pataliputra
- 125.(c); The Kanva dynasty or Kanvayana was a Brahmin dynasty [1] that replaced the Shunga dynasty in Magadha, and ruled in the Eastern part of India and it is founded by Vasudeva
- 126.(a); The Gathasaptasati is an ancient collection of Indian poems in Prakrit language of Maharashtra. It contains poems which are

about love and love's joy. The collection is attributed to the king Hāla who lived in the 1st century

- 127.(a); Eran is an ancient Indian historical city in Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh state. One of the earliest Sati Pillars of India was found in Eran dated 510 AD during Gupta Era. This was discovered by General Alexander Cunningham in 1874- 1875 A.D.
- 128.(a); The Kushan Empire was a syncretic empire, formed by Yuezhi, in the Bactrian territories in the early 1st century. It spread to encompass much of Afghanistan, present-day Pakistan, and then the northern parts of India at least as far as Saketa and Sarnath near Varanasi where inscriptions have been found dating to the era of the Kanishka the Great
- 129.(d); The Fourth Buddhist Council was held at Kundalvana, Kashmir in 72 AD under the patronage of Kushan king Kanishka and the president of this council was Vasumitra, with Aśvaghosa as his deputy. This council distinctly divided the Buddhism into 2 sects Mahayan & Hinayan
- 130.(a); Charaka was one of the fathers contributors to Ayurveda, a system of medicine and lifestyle developed in Ancient India. He is famous for authoring the medical treatise, the Charaka Samhita. He was a famous court physician in kanishka period
- 131.(c); Samudragupta (335-375 AD) of the Gupta dynasty is known as the Napoleon of India. Historian A V Smith called him so because of his great military conquests known from the 'Prayag Prashati' written by his courtier and poet Harisena, who also describes him as the hero of a hundred battles
- 132.(d); The Mehrauli iron pillar of Delhi, India is a 7 meter (22 feet) high pillar in the Qutb complex which is notable for the composition of the metals used in its construction. The pillar, was erected by Chandragupta II Vikramaditya in Gupta period
- 133.(b); "Rupyaka" was a silver coin issued by rulers of Gupta dynasty. They also issued

golden coins named "dinars". Rupyaka in Sanskrit means rupee

- 134.(c); It was during the Gupta period that progress was made in the field of art. The paintings of this era were of a secular nature. The paintings in the cave of Ajanta in the state of Maharashtra and the paintings in the cave of Bagh in the state of Madhya Pradesh symbolize the Gupta style painting
- 135.(c); The nomadic savages or tribes who lived in the neighbourhood of China were the Hephthalites (the Sanskrit name of which is Hunas). Gupta Empire ruled over a major part of India, after the death of the Gupta emperor, Samudragupta, there was less control of the skandgupta in Western India. During this time, the Hunas armed forces attacked the Gupta dynasty
- 136.(c); Fa-Hien is the famous Chinese pilgrim who visited India during the rule of Chandra Gupta II. Fa Hien (337 - ca. 422 AD) was so much absorbed in his quest for Buddhist books, legends, and miracles that he could not mention the name of the mighty monarch in whose rule he lived for 6 years
- 137.(c); Tamralipti was the name of a city in ancient India, located on the Bay of Bengal. It is believed that Tamralipti was the exit point of the Mauryan trade route for the south and south-east. It was also an important port in gupta period
- 138.(c); The Gupta dynasty period is regarded as the Golden Age of India. This period is also known as the Classical Age of Hinduism. Hinduism was revived during the Gupta Empire period and after its revival, it reached its zenith. The main religion followed by the Gupta people was Hindu
- 139.(a); Varāhamihira, was an Indian astronomer, mathematician, and astrologer who lived in Ujjain. He was born in Avanti in 6th century
- 140.(a); Vamana is the fifth avatar of Hindu god Vishnu. He incarnates in a time of crisis and to restore cosmic balance by creatively defeating the asura king Bali with disproportionate powers over the universe
- 141.(d); Shaligram refers to a fossilized shell used in South Asia as an iconic symbol and

- reminder of the God Vishnu as the Universal Principle by some Hindus
- 142.(a); Kali Yuga is the last of the four stages the world goes through as part of a 'cycle of yugas' described in the Sanskrit scriptures. The other ages are called Satya Yuga, Treta Yuga, and Dvapara Yuga
- 143.(a); Angkor wat is a temple complex in Cambodia and the largest religious monument in the world, on a site measuring 162.6 hectares. It was originally constructed as a Hindu temple of god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, gradually transforming into a Buddhist temple towards the end of the 12th century
- 144.(a); The abundance of gold coins from the Gupta era has led some scholars to regard this phenomenon as the 'rain of gold'. The Gupta gold coin is known as dinaras
- 145.(c); Chandragupta II (also known as Chandragupta Vikramaditya) was one of the most powerful emperors of the Gupta Empire in India. His rule spanned c.380 – c.415 CE during which the Gupta Empire reached its peak in Art, architecture, and sculpture flourished, and the cultural development of ancient India achieved new heights.He adopted title of 'Param Bhagawata'
- 146.(c); Trimurti sculpture is in the Elephanta Cave.It represent three heads which are said to represent three essential aspects of Shiva which are creation, protection, and destruction
- 147.(b); Chandragupta I was a king of the Gupta Empire around 320 CE. As the ruler of the Gupta Empire, he is known for forging alliances with many powerful families in the Ganges region. He also married a Licchavi princess, Kumaradevi, indicating that the matrimonial connections between the two led to the "political greatness" of the Gupta dynasty
- 148.(b); The officer responsible for the safe custody of land records during the Gupta period was known as Karanika
- 149.(a); Chandragupta I married a Licchavi princess, Kumaradevi, and their son is Samudragupta
- 150.(b); Chandragupta was the first ruler who adopt the title of maharaja-adhiraja
- 151.(d); The term Sabha denotes both the assembly (in early Rig-Vedic) and the assembly hall (Later Rig-Vedic). Women who were called Sabhavati also attended this assembly. It was basically a kin-based assembly and the practice of women attending it was stopped in later-Vedic times
- 152.(b); Adi Shankaracharya wished to grace the Indian subcontinent by establishing four major mathas in the four corners of the peninsula in north (Jyothirmath), south (Sringeri), east (Puri), west (Dwaraka) to propagate the philosophy of advaita vedanta and to promulgate the concept of Sanatana dharma
- 153.(c); The fully developed splendid form of temple architecture emerged in India in Sixth Century A.D.
- 154.(c); Bāṇabhaṭṭa was a 7th-century Sanskrit prose writer and poet of India. He was the Asthana Kavi in the court of King Harsha Vardhana. Bāṇabhata principal works include a biography of Harsha, the Harshacharita and Kadambari.
- 155.(a); The Chinese Buddhist monk Hsuan Tsang (var. Hiuen Tsiang) who visited India through the Silk Route in AD 627 He was a great traveler, scholar and translator and he learn more about Buddhism in india. He return to china in 645AD by land route
- 156.(b); Harsha was defeated by the south Indian Emperor Pulakeshin II of the Chalukya dynasty when Harsha tried to expand his Empire into the southern peninsula of India
- 157.(b); Bāṇabhaṭṭa was a 7th-century Sanskrit prose writer and poet of India. He was the Asthana Kavi in the court of King Harsha Vardhana, who reigned c. 606–647 CE in north India
- 158.(d); Bāṇabhaṭṭa was a 7th-century Sanskrit prose writer and poet of India. He was the Asthana Kavi in the court of King Harsha Vardhana. Bāṇabhata principal works include a biography of Harsha, the Harshacharita and Kadambari
- 159.(d); The entire region including Afghanistan, Swat Valley, Punjab and Indo-Gangetic

- watershed has been referred in Rig-Veda once as the Sapta Sindhava or Sapta Sindhu
- 160.(a); Bāṇabhaṭṭa was a 7th-century Sanskrit prose writer and poet of India. He was the Asthana Kavi in the court of King Harsha Vardhana. Bāṇabhata principal works include a biography of Harsha, the Harshacharita and Kadambari
- 161.(a); Panini, is the name of an ancient Sanskrit linguist, grammarian, and a revered scholar in Hinduism. He is known for his text Ashtadhyayi, a sutra-style treatise on Sanskrit grammar, estimated to have been completed between 6th and 4th century BCE
- 162.(a); The Lilavatiis Indian mathematician Bhāskara II's treatise on mathematics, written in 1150AD. It is the first volume of his main work, the Siddhānta Shiromani, alongside the Bijaganita, the Grahaganita and the Golādhyāya
- 163.(d); Indica is an account of Mauryan India by Megasthenes. The original book is now lost, but its fragments have survived in later Greek and Latin works.
- 164.(d); Brihat Samhita is work of of Varāhamihira , It covers wide ranging subjects of human interest, including astrology, planetary movements, eclipses, rainfall, clouds, architecture and growth of crops
- 165.(b); The Mudrarakshasa is a historical play in Sanskrit by Vishakhadatta that narrates the ascent of the king Chandragupta Maurya to power in India. It is dated variously from the late 4th century to the 8th century.
- 166.(b); Abhijnanasakuntalam is a Sanskrit play by Kālidāsa, dramatizing the story of Shakuntala told in the epic Mahabharata. It is considered to be the best of Kālidāsa's works
- 167.(d); Kalidasa, in 5th century A.D is a Sanskrit poet and dramatist.The six works identified as genuine are the dramas Abhijnanashakuntala ("The Recognition of Shakuntala"), Vikramorvashi ("Urvashi Won by Valour"), and Malavikagnimitra ("Malavika and Agnimitra"); the epic poems Raghuvamsha ("Dynasty of Raghu") and Kumarasambhava ("Birth of the War God"); and the lyric "Meghaduta" ("Cloud Messenger")
- 168.(b); Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions on rocks, pillars, temple walls, copper plates and other writing material
- 169.(c); Kalidasa, in 5th century A.D is a Sanskrit poet and dramatist.The six works identified as genuine are the dramas Abhijnanashakuntala ("The Recognition of Shakuntala"), Vikramorvashi ("Urvashi Won by Valour"), and Malavikagnimitra ("Malavika and Agnimitra"); the epic poems Raghuvamsha ("Dynasty of Raghu") and Kumarasambhava ("Birth of the War God"); and the lyric "Meghaduta" ("Cloud Messenger")
- 170.(b); The Gita Govinda is a work composed by the 12th-century Indian poet, Jayadeva. It describes the relationship between Krishna and the gopis of Vrindavana, and in particular one gopi named Radha
- 171.(c); The Panchatantra is an ancient Indian collection of interrelated animal fables in Sanskrit verse and prose, arranged within a frame story. The surviving work is dated to about 300 BCE,it is written by Vishnu Sharma.
- S172. (a); The Arthashastra is an ancient Indian treatise on statecraft, economic policy and military strategy, written in Sanskrit.It is authored by Kautilya
- 173.(b); Pulakesin II, was the most famous ruler of the Chalukya dynasty. During his reign, the Chalukyas of Badami saw their kingdom extend over most of the Deccan.He defeated Harsha near Narmada when he tried to extend his rule in south India
- 174.(c); The Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra state of India.The earliest group constructed consists of caves 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15A According to Walter Spink, they were made during the period 100 BCE to 100 CE, probably under the patronage of the Hindu Satavahana dynasty (230 BCE – c. 220 CE) who ruled the region
- 175.(d); Brihadeshwarar Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva located in

Thanjavur in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is also known as RajaRajeswara Temple. It is built by Chola king Raja Raja Chola I in 1010 AD

- 176.(b); The Satavahanas produced coins in lead, copper, potin, brass, bronze and silver. The earliest and the majority of the Satavahana coins are made of lead
- 177.(d); Ellora is one of the largest rock-cut monastery-temple caves complexes in the world, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Maharashtra, India. The site presents monuments and artwork of Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism from the 600-1000 CE period patronised by Rastrakuta
- 178.(c); Kailasa temple is one of the largest rock-cut ancient Hindu temples located in Ellora, Maharashtra, India. A megalith carved out of one single rock, it is considered one of the most remarkable cave temples in India because of its size, architecture and sculptural treatment
- 179.(a); "Seven Pagodas" has served as a nickname for the south Indian city of Mahabalipuram temple which is built by Pallava king Narasimhavarman II. It is a shore temple on the bay of Bengal.
- 180.(a); The history of chess can be traced back nearly 1500 years, although the earliest origins are uncertain. The earliest predecessor of the game probably originated in India, before the 6th century AD
- 181.(c); Every village was a self-governing unit. A number of villages constituted a larger entity known as a Kurram, Nadu or Kottram, depending on the area. A number of Kurrams constituted a Velanadu
- 182.(a); The Vakataka Empire was a dynasty from the Indian subcontinent that originated from the Deccan in the mid-3rd century CE. They were the most important successors of the Satavahanas in the Deccan and contemporaneous with the Guptas in northern India
- 183.(b); Dhana Nanda was the last ruler of the Nanda dynasty. He was overthrown by

Chandragupta Maurya with the help of Chanakya

- 184.(b); Gopuram is a monumental tower, usually ornate, at the entrance of any temple, especially in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka states of Southern India. This forms a prominent feature of Hindu temples of the Dravidian style. The gopuram's origins can be traced back to early structures of the Pallava kings; and by the twelfth century, under the Pandya rulers, these gateways became a dominant feature of a temple's outer appearance
- 185.(d); Madurai is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. It was a flourishing city by the 1st millennium BC and served as the capital of the Pandyan Kingdom
- 186.(a); Sangam period was the period in the history of spanning from c. 3rd century BC to c. 3rd century AD. It is named after the famous Sangam academies of poets and scholars centered in the city of Madurai. India had foreign trade relations with the Roman Empire
- 187.(a); The Satavahanas were an ancient Indian dynasty based in the Deccan region. Most modern scholars believe that the Satavahana rule began in the first century BCE and lasted until the second century CE
- 188.(a); Mahendravarman I a Pallava king adopted the title Vichitrachitta. He was a Pallava king who ruled the Northern regions of what forms present-day Tamil Nadu in India in the early 7th century
- 189.(d); Thirukkural, or shortly the Kural, is a classic Tamil text consisting of 1330 couplets or kurals, dealing with the everyday virtues of an individual. It was authored by Valluvar, also known in full as Thiruvalluvar
- 190.(b); Virupaksha Temple is located in Hampi 350 km from Bangalore, in the state of Karnataka in southern India. It is part of the Group of Monuments at Hampi, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temple is dedicated to Virupaksha, a form of Shiva

- 191.(a); The Satavahanas were an ancient Indian dynasty based in the Deccan region and their language is prakrit
- 192.(a); The Vakataka Empire was a dynasty from the Indian subcontinent that originated from the Deccan in the mid-3rd century CE. Their state is believed to have extended from the southern edges of Malwa and Gujarat in the north to the Tungabhadra River in the south. Vindhya Shakti was the founder of Vakatak dynasty
- 193.(b); Raja Raja Chola I was a renowned king who ruled over the Chola kingdom of southern India between 985 and 1014 CE. Raja Raja Chola also launched several naval campaigns that resulted in the capture of the Malabar Coast as well as the Maldives and Sri Lanka
- 194.(b); The Rath Temple at Mahabalipuram are also called Shore Temple (built in 700-728 AD). It is a structural temple, built with blocks of granite, dating from the 8th century AD. It is built by Pallava ruler Narasimahavarman I
- 195.(b); The battle of Koppam was fought between the Western Chalukyas and the Cholas
- 196.(d); Hemachandra was a Jain scholar, poet, and polymath who wrote on grammar, philosophy, prosody, and contemporary history
- 197.(b); Fertile area used for cropland is called Marudam in tamil areas
- 198.(d); The first tamil Sangam was held to the south of Madurai under the patronage of Makeerthy, the Pandyan king. Agastya was the president of first sangam
- 199.(b); Mandapam in Indian architecture is a pillared outdoor hall or pavilion for public rituals. Kalyana Mandapam is dedicated to ritual marriage celebration of the Lord with Goddess
- 200.(a); Raja Raja Chola I was a renowned king who ruled over the Chola kingdom of southern India between 985 and 1014 CE. Raja Raja Chola also launched several naval campaigns that resulted in the capture of the Malabar Coast as well as the Maldives and Sri Lanka and named it Mummadi Cholapuram.
- 201.(c); The Sangam literature is the ancient Tamil literature of the period in the history of ancient southern India spanning from c. 300 BCE to 300 CE. This collection contains 2381 poems in Tamil composed by 473 poets. The ancient Sangam poems mention numerous kings and princes, the existence of some of whom have been confirmed through archaeological evidence. Sangam literature is still the main source for the early Cholas, the Pandyas and the Cheras
- 202.(c); The third Tamil Sangam was held in Madurai. Its chairman was a tamil poet Nakkirar
- 203.(c); The earliest evidence of Agriculture in Indian subcontinent is found at Mehrgarh, which is located in Baluchistan state of Pakistan
- 204.(b); Also known as Banaras and Kashi situated on the bank of holiest river of India "Ganges". Varanasi "The city of temples" is one of the oldest city in the world. Varanasi is also known as the "Religious capital of India". The city has been a culture and religious center in India for several years
- 205.(b); Prehistory is a term used to describe the period before recorded history (i.e. before writing). Prehistory can be used to refer to all time since the beginning of the universe, although it is more commonly used in referring to the period of time since life appeared on Earth, or even more specifically to the time since human-like beings appeared
- 206.(b); The Stone Age people were mostly food gatherers and hunters and they use to wore leaves, bark of trees and skin of animals
- 207.(c); The domestication of animals is the mutual relationship between animals with the humans who have influence on their care and reproduction
- 208.(a); The Paleolithic age is a prehistoric period of human history distinguished by the development of the most primitive stone tools and covers roughly 95% of human technological prehistory. It extends from the earliest known use of stone tools, probably by Homo habilis initially, 2.6 million years ago, to the end of the around 10,000 BC

- 209.(a); A granary is a storehouse or room in a barn for threshed grain or animal feed. It is made of bricks only. The Great Granary is situated at Harappa
- 210.(c); The town planning of the Harappan civilization upholds the fact that the civic establishments of the city were highly developed. Drainage system, roads crossing each other and bricks used are remarkable feature of Indus valley civilization.
- 211.(b); Kalibangan in Rajasthan has given the evidence of the earliest (2800 BC) ploughed agricultural field ever revealed through an excavation. It is also a site which has given an evidence of earliest recorded "Earthquake".
- 212.(a); The earliest evidence of silver in India is found in the Harappan culture
- 213.(c); It is an island country consisting of a small archipelago centered around Bahrain Island, situated between the Qatar peninsula and the north eastern coast of Saudi Arabia
- 214.(d); Chanhu Daro is situated 130 kms south of Mohenjo-Daro in Sindh and there has been found a single mound. It was discovered by N G Majumdar in 1931. Chanhu Daro is the only harappan city which does not have a citadel
- 215.(d); The earliest specimen of harappan script was noticed in 1853 and complete script discovered in 1923 but script has not yet deciphered so far.
- 216.(a); Worship of Female deities was common to both the Harappa and Rigvedic society
217. (d); The Chenab River is a major river of India and Pakistan. It forms in the upper Himalayas in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh, India, and flows through the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir into the plains of the Punjab
- 218.(b); Harappan seals discovered from Mesopotamia which represent the importance of trade in life of Indus valley civilization. The town planning also represent the urban culture of this civilization.
- 219.(d); The Indus Civilization of India and Pakistan was contemporary with, and equally complex as the better-known cultures of Mesopotamia, Egypt and China
- 220.(b); Chanhu Daro is situated 130 kms south of Mohenjo-Daro in Sindh. The Chanhu Daro has given evidence of factories of various figurines, seals, toys, bone implements so it has been interpreted that it was a settlement with lots of artisans and was an industrial town
- 221.(c); The harappan culture belongs to bronze age. copper was obtained from khetri copper mines. Tin was brought from Afghanistan. Iron was not used in Harappan culture
- 222.(a); Copper was the first metal used by men. It was used to make tools. In India khetri mines is one of the earliest mines of copper
- 223.(d); In Harappa numerous figure of women found having plant growing from embryo which represent earth goddess but in vedic text there is no importance of mother goddess.
- 224.(b); There were many archaeological evidences like pottery, bull seal, mother goddess figure
- 225.(b); Lothal is excavated by R. Rao in 1953. It is Located in Gujarat and also called as mini-Harappa. The first manmade port and a dockyard, bead maker factory, rice husk, fire alters, chess playing, seals of Persia, evidence of Joint burial are the evidences from this place
- 226.(a); Banawali is an archaeological site belonging to Indus Valley Civilization period in Haryana. It is on the left banks of Sarasvati River. A toy model of plough is found at Banawali
- 227.(c); Mohenjodaro is an archaeological site in the province of Pakistan. Built around 2500 BCE, it was one of the largest settlements of the ancient Indus Valley civilization. Mohenjo-daro, the modern name for the site, has been variously interpreted as "Mound of the Dead Men" in Sindh
- 228.(d); Vedic literature is primarily of two types, sruti and smriti. The Veda is called sruti and is the highest authority. Other texts are called smritis, and they derive authority from the sruti

- 229.(b); Bharatas were a tribe mentioned in the Rigveda, attributed to the Bharata sage Vishvamitra. Rigveda in seventh mandal mentions the Bharatas as taking part in the Battle of the Ten Kings, where they are on the winning side
- 230.(a); Purohita is official title in vedic times for priest. Priests of the Vedic religion are officials for rituals and sacrifices. He was most important functionary after King
- 231.(c); In the early Vedic period the king collected taxes regularly from his subjects. The taxes were called Bali and consisted of 1/6 the agricultural produce or cattle for a given person
- 232.(d); UNIT HEAD
Kula(family) kulapa
Grama(village) Gramini
Vis(clan) vispati
Jana(people) Gopa
Rashtra(country) Rajan
- 233.(a); These are said to be eighteen in number, divided into three groups of six
- 234.(d); Kalpa (kalpa) is ritual instructions. This field focussed on standardizing procedures for Vedic rituals, rites of passage rituals associated with major life events such as birth, wedding and death in family, as well as discussing the personal conduct and proper duties of an individual in different stages of his life
- 235.(a); Samkhya or Sankhya is one of the six schools of Hindu philosophy. It is most related to the Yoga school of Hinduism, and it was influential on other schools of Indian philosophy
- 236.(d); This philosophy is contained in the Upanishads. The Upanishads contain the essence of the Vedas. They are the concluding portions of the Vedas and are the source of the Vedanta philosophy. There are total 108 Upanishads according to the Muktika Upanishad
- 237.(d); The Upanishads contain the essence of the Vedas. They are the concluding portions of the Vedas and are the source of the Vedanta philosophy. There are total 108 Upanishads according to the Muktika Upanishad
- 238.(b); YAVANPRIYA" means Pepper which was the most famous article in ancient Roman Empire. It was in a great demand from India. India earned a lot of gold from its export that is why in Sanskrit text "pepper" is called "Yavanpriya means "the favourite of Greeks"
- 239.(b); The Vedas are the four holiest books of the Hindu religion are Rigveda , Yajurveda , Samaveda and Atharvaveda
- 240.(b); Indra is a Vedic deity in Hinduism, In the Vedas, Indra is the king of Svarga (Heaven) and the Devas. He is the god of lightning, thunder, storms, rains and river flows. Indra is the most referred to deity in the Rigveda
- 241.(d); Nishka is a type of coin during vedic period
- 242.(b); It is a type of marriage in vedic times. It is a token bride price of a Cow and a Bull was given
- 243.(b); The Rig Veda is the oldest of the Vedas. All the other Vedas are based upon it and consist to a large degree of various hymns from it. It consists of a thousand such hymns of different seers, each hymn averaging around ten verses. The Rig Veda is the oldest book in world
- 244.(b); It is one of the earliest assembly Vidhata appears for 122 times in the Rig-Veda and seems to be the most important assembly in the Rig Vedic period. Vidhata was an assembly meant for secular, religious and military purpose
- 245.(d); One of the oldest gods in Hindu mythology, Varuna was originally a creator and the ruler of the sky. In the Vedas—the sacred texts of ancient India—he was a supreme, all-knowing deity who enforced the laws of the universe and human morality. He is upholder of the 'Rita' or Cosmic order
- 246.(a); The Gayatri Mantra, also known as the Savitri mantra, is a highly revered mantra from the Rig Veda, dedicated to Savitri, the Sun deity
- 247.(a); Indra is a Vedic deity in Hinduism, In the Vedas, Indra is the king of Svarga (Heaven) and the Devas. He is the god of lightning, thunder, storms, rains and river flows. Indra is the most referred to deity in the Rigveda
- 248.(a);

- 249.(b); The major texts of Kalpa Vedanga are called Kalpa Sutras in Hinduism. The scope of these texts included Vedic rituals, rites of passage rituals associated with major life events such as birth, wedding and death in family, as well as personal conduct and proper duties in the life of an individual
- 250.(b); Indian Philosophy or Hindu Philosophy is generally classified into 6 orthodox schools (āstika) and 3 heterodox (nāstika) schools. Astika School accept the Vedas as supreme. Astika school is originally called Sanatana Dharma
- 251.(d); The Atharva Veda is the "knowledge storehouse of atharvāṅgas, the procedures for everyday life". The text is the fourth Veda, but has been a late addition to the Vedic scriptures of Hinduism. The Atharvaveda is composed in Vedic Sanskrit, and it is a collection of 730 hymns with about 6,000 mantras, divided into 20 books. The vedic saying "war begins in the minds of men" is contained in it
- 252.(b); The given philosophical essence is from Upanishads. The Upanishads are a collection of ancient Sanskrit texts that contain some of the central philosophical concepts and ideas of Hinduism, The Upanishads played an important role in the development of spiritual ideas in ancient India, and they marked a transition from Vedic ritualism to new ideas and institutions. The Upanishads are commonly referred to as Vedānta
- 253.(c); Just like the word "Arya", several other words are mentioned in Rigveda that are about the people of that time. Dasas, Dasyus and Panis: They were called "Anarya" (un-arya) because they didn't believe in the rituals of yajna that the vedic aryanas
- 254.(c);
- 255.(c); The Mahābhārata is one of the major Sanskrit epics of ancient India .The Mahābhārata is an epic narrative of the Kurukṣetra War and the fates of the Kaurava and the Pāṇḍava princes. It also contains philosophical and devotional material. The Mahābhārata is the longest epic poem known and has been described as "the longest poem ever written"
- 256.(c); Adi Shankara was an early 8th century Indian philosopher who consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta. He is credited with unifying and establishing the main currents of thought in Hinduism. His works in Sanskrit discuss the unity of the ātman and Nirguna Brahman "brahman without attributes"
- 257.(c); Rigveda mention about river like Ganga, Saraswati and Sapta Sindhu rivers
- 258.(c); The Brahmanas are a collection of ancient Indian texts with commentaries on the hymns of the four Vedas. They are a layer or category of Vedic Sanskrit texts embedded within each Veda, and form a part of the Hindu sruti literature
- 259.(b); Dieties mention in Rigvedic times are Indra, agni, varuna, soma etc
- 260.(c); Panigrahana is a ritual in presence of fire, where the groom takes the bride's hand as a sign of their union aptapadi is the most important ritual. It is called the seven step ritual, where each step corresponds to a vow groom makes to bride, and a vow the bride makes to groom
- 261.(d); Saraswati River is one of the Rigvedic rivers mentioned in the Rig Veda and later Vedic and post-Vedic texts. The Saraswati River played an important role in Hinduism since Vedic Sanskrit. The first part of the Rig Veda is believed to have originated when the Vedic people lived on its banks, during the 2nd millennium BCE
- 262.(b); Kamadhenu also known as Surabhi, is a divine bovine-goddess described in Hinduism as the mother of all cows. Hindu scriptures provide diverse accounts of the birth of Kamadhenu
- 263.(c); Samveda is the third of the four Vedas, the ancient core Hindu scriptures, along with the Rig Veda, Yajurveda, and Atharva Veda. The Samaveda is the Veda of Chants, or "storehouse of knowledge of chants"
- 264.(d); The staple food of vedic Aryan is milk products, there is reference of milk product in vedas

- 265.(b); Indra is regarded as the War-God in Rigveda. Agni is considered intermediary between gods and people. Varuna supposed to uphold 'Rita' or natural order and Surya was worshipped in 5 forms, Surya, Savitri, Mitra, Pushan and Vishnu
- 266.(b); Evidences are found for ornaments like Niska, Rukma were used to wear in the neck
- 267.(c); According to ancient history traced to Vedas, 'the battle of ten kings' was fought near the Ravi River also known as Iravati or Parushni
- 268.(b); The Satpatha Brahmana is a prose text describing Vedic rituals, history and mythology associated with the Sukla Yajurveda
- 269.(c); Max Muller, was a German-born philologist and Orientalist, who lived and studied in Britain for most of his life. He was one of the founders of the western academic field of Indian studies and the discipline of comparative religion. He was first European to designate 'Aryans' as a race
- 270.(c); Sanghamitra was the eldest daughter of Emperor Ashoka. Together with Mahinda, her brother, she entered an order of Buddhist monks. The two siblings later went to Sri Lanka to spread the teachings of Buddhism.
- 271.(c); Kharavela was a king of Kalinga in present-day Odisha. Kharavela is believed to be a follower of Jainism. The main source of information about Kharavela is his rock-cut Hathigumpha inscription
- 272.(c); Bhadrabahu was, according to the Digambara sect of Jainism. He was the last acharya of the undivided Jain sangha. He was the last spiritual teacher of Chandragupta Maurya. Bhadrabahu was the author of Kalpa Sūtra
- 273.(b); Kushinagar, district of the eastern Uttar Pradesh, is known for its cultural heritage all over the world. It is one of the four holiest places for the Buddhists. At Kushinagar, Great Lord Buddha, died
- 274.(d); Pali is a Prakrit language native to the Indian subcontinent. It is widely studied because it is the language of much of the earliest extant literature of Buddhism
- 275.(a); In the Buddhist context, nirvana refers to realization of non-self and emptiness, marking the end of rebirth by stilling the fires that keep the process of rebirth going
- 276.(c); The term Nirgrantha is associated with Jains.
- 277.(b); The Sakyas were a clan of the late Vedic period and so-called "second urbanisation" in present-day India and present-day Nepal. This ethnic group of which Gautama Buddha belongs
- 278.(d); Mahāyāna is one of the branches of Buddhism and a term for classification of Buddhist philosophies and practice. It came into existence during 1st B.C in India. According to the teachings of Mahāyāna traditions, "Mahāyāna" also refers to the path of the Bodhisattva seeking complete enlightenment for the benefit of all sentient beings
- 279.(a); Tripitakas are sacred books of Buddhists.
- 280.(c); Mahavira also known as Vardhamāna, was the twenty-fourth Tirthankara of Jainism. In the Jain tradition, it is believed that Mahavira was born in the early part of the 6th century BC into a royal family in what is now Bihar, India. He was last in succession of Jain Tirthankars
- 281.(c); Kaivalya is a state of freedom from bondage, attachments, egoism, duality, attraction and aversion and the cycle of births and deaths. It refers to 'perfect knowledge'
- 282.(d); Kapilavastu is the name of the ancient city where Siddhartha Gautama, also known as the Buddha, was raised and lived until the age of 29
- 283.(a); Mahāyāna is one of the branches of Buddhism and a term for classification of Buddhist philosophies and practice. It came into existence during 1st B.C in India. Nalanda university represented a great centre for study of Mahayana Buddhism
- 284.(a); The Hindu painting was closely connected with pictorial art of the Buddhism in ancient India
- 285.(b); In Buddhism, Dharmachakra mudra expresses the continuous energy (symbolized by a wheel/chakra) of the

- cosmic order. This mudra is associated with Buddha's first sermon, or teaching
- 286.(d); Followers of Jainism are called "Jains", a word derived from the Sanskrit word jina ('victor') and connoting the path of victory in crossing over life's stream of rebirths through an ethical and spiritual life
- 287.(b); Ashvaghosha was an Indian philosopher-poet, born in Saketa in northern India to a Brahmin family. He is believed to have been the first Sanskrit dramatist, and is considered the greatest Indian poet prior to Kālidāsa. He was the most famous in a group of Buddhist court writers
- 288.(b); The Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra state of India are about 29 rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments which date from the 2nd century BCE to about 480 or 650 CE. The caves also present paintings depicting the past lives and rebirths of the Buddha
- 289.(b); Second Buddhist Assembly held at Vaishali in 386BC during Kalasoka in the presidency of sabakami and it settle dispute on Vinaya. The dispute arose over the 'Ten Points.'
- 290.(b); There were 24 "Tirthankaras" in Jainism. Mahavira was 24th Tirthankara. In Jainism, a tirthankara is a saviour and spiritual teacher of the dharma
- 291.(c); Mahavira (599 BC-527 BC), also known as 'Vardhaman', was 24th Jain Tirthankara. He was He was last in succession of Jain Tirthankars. born in 599 BC in Bihar state of India. He revived the Jain Dharma with five moral teachings under broad headings of Non-violence(Ahimsa), Truthfulness (Satya), Non-stealing (Asteya), Control of senses including mind (Brahmacharya), and Non-possessiveness (Aparigraha)
- 292.(d); Hieun Tsang was the celebrated Chinese traveler who visited India in Ancient Times. He has been described therefore as the "Prince of Pilgrims." His visit to India was an important event of the reign of Harshavardhana. He found Jainism flourishing in Bihar
- 293.(c); The Vinaya Pitaka is a Buddhist scripture, one of the three parts that make up the Tripitaka. The other two parts of the Tripitaka are the Sutta Pitaka and the Abhidhamma Pitaka. Its primary subject matter is the monastic rules for monks and nuns
- 294.(b); Lord Buddha is called Light of Asia
- 295.(d); Sarnath is a city located 13 kilometres north-east of Varanasi near the confluence of the Ganges and the Varuna rivers in Uttar Pradesh, India. It is a place where Buddha gave his first sermon
- 296.(c); The Fourth Buddhist Council was held at Kundalvana, Kashmir in 72 AD under the patronage of Kushan king Kanishka and the president of this council was Vasumitra, with Asvaghosa as his deputy. This council distinctly divided the Buddhism into 2 sects Mahayana & Hinayana
- 297 (a); Mahinda was a Buddhist monk depicted in Buddhist sources as bringing Buddhism to Sri Lanka. He was the first-born son of the Mauryan emperor Ashoka from his wife Devi and the elder brother of Sanghamitra
- 298 (b); Bodh Gaya, or Bodhgaya, is a village in the northeast Indian state of Bihar. It is one of the most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites, it's dominated by the ancient brick Mahabodhi Temple Complex, built to mark the site where the Buddha attained enlightenment beneath a sacred Bodhi Tree
- 299.(d); The Hathigumpha Inscription ("Elephant Cave" inscription), from Udayagiri, near Bhubaneswar in Odisha, was inscribed by Kharavela, the then Emperor of Kalinga in India, during 2nd century BCE
- 300.(a); The Chola Dynasty was divided into several provinces called Mandalams which were further divided into Valanadus and these Valanadus were sub-divided into units called Kottams or Kutrams.

THE GHAZNAVIS

Mahmud of Ghazni (997-1030)

- He was also known as “But-Shikan” (destroyer of the image) because of seventeen plundering expeditions between 1000 AD & 1027 AD in India.
- Annexing Punjab as his eastern province, he claimed to have come here with twin objectives of spreading Islam in India, & enriching himself by taking away wealth from India.
- In 1025, he attacked & raided the most celebrated Hindu temple of Somnath, Gujarat.
- Beruni who wrote Kitab-ul Hind, & Firdausi, who wrote Shah Namah, were the court Historians of Mahmud Ghazni & give a good account of the polity & society on the eve of Mahmood’s invasion. From 1010 to 1026, the invasions were thus directed toward the temple-towns of Thanesar, Mathura, Kannauj & finally Somnath.

Muhammad Ghori

In AD 1173, Shihab-ud-din Muhammad (AD 1173–1206) also called Muhammad of Ghori ascended the throne of Ghazni. The Ghoris were not strong enough to meet the growing power & strength of the Khwarizmi Empire; they realized that they could gain nothing in Central Asia.

Conquest of Punjab & Sind

- Muhammad Ghori led his first expedition in AD 1175. He marched against Multan & freed it from its ruler. In the same campaign he captured Uchh from the Bhatti Rajputs.
- Three years later in AD 1178 he again marched to conquer Gujarat but the Chalukya ruler of Gujarat, Bhima II defeated him at the battle of Anhilwara. But by AD 1190 having secured Multan, Sind & Punjab, Muhammad Ghori paved the way for a further thrust into the Gangetic Doab.

Delhi Sultanate

After the assassination of Muhammad Ghori, Qutubuddin Aibek got the control over Delhi.

This period can be divided into 5 distinct periods viz.

- The Slave Dynasty (1206-90)
- The Khilji Dynasty (1290-1320)
- The Tughlaq Dynasty (1320-1414)
- The Sayyid Dynasty (1414-51)
- The Lodhi Dynasty (1451-1526).

The Slave Dynasty

Qutubuddin Aibak (1206-10)

- A Turkish slave by origin, he was purchased by Mohammad Ghori who later made him his Governor.
- After the death of Ghori, Aibak became the master of Hindustan & founded the Slave Dynasty in 1206.
- The capital during his reign was not Delhi but **Lahore**.
- For his generosity, he was given the title of **Lakh Bakhsh** (giver of lakhs).
- He died in 1210 while playing Chaugan or Polo.
- He constructed two mosques i.e. Quwat-ul-Islam at Delhi & Adhai din ka Jhohpra at Ajmer.
- He also began the construction of Qutub Minar, in the honour of famous Sufi Saint Khwaja Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki.
- Aibak was great patron of learning & patronized writers like Hasan-un-Nizami, author of ‘Taj-ul- Massir’ & Fakhruddin, author of ‘Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi’.

Aram Shah (1210)

- He was the son of Aibak, who was defeated by Illtutmish in the battle of Jud.

Shams-ud-din Illtutmish (1210-36)

- He was a slave of Qutubuddin Aibak of Mamluk tribe & occupied the throne of Delhi in 1211.
- Illtutmish began his career as Sar-e Jandhar or royal bodyguard.
- He was a very capable ruler & is regarded as the 'real founder of the Delhi Sultanate'.
- He made Delhi the capital in place of Lahore.
- He saved Delhi Sultanate from the attack of Chengiz Khan, the Mongol leader, by refusing shelter to Khwarizm Shah, whom Chengiz was chasing.
- He introduced the silver coin (tanka) & the copper coin (jital).
- He organized the Iqta System & introduced reforms in civil administration & army, which was now centrally paid & recruited.
- He set up an official nobility of slaves known as Chahalgani/ Chalisa (group of forty).
- He completed the construction of Qutub Minar which was started by Aibak.
- He patronized Minhaj-us-Siraj, author of 'Tabaqat-i-Nasiri'.

Rukn-ud-din Feroz : 1236

- He was son of Illtutmish & was crowned by her mother, Shah Turkan, after death of Illtutmish.
- He was deposed by Razia, daughter of Illtutmish.

Razia Sultana: (1236 – 40)

- Illtutmish had nominated his daughter Razia as the successor, the nobles placed Ruknuddin Feroz on the throne.
- She was the 'first & only Muslim lady who ever ruled India'.
- She used to rule without the veil.
- She further offended the nobles by her preference for an Abyssian slave Yakut.
- The wazir of Illtutmish Junnaidi revolted against her but was defeated.
- There was a serious rebellion in Bhatinda, Altunia, governor of Bhatinda refused to accept suzerainty of Razia. Razia accompanied by Yakut marched against Altunia.
- However, Altunia got Yakut murdered & imprisoned Razia.
- Subsequently, Razia was married to Altunia & both of them marched towards Delhi as nobles in Delhi raised Bahram Shah (3rd son of Illtutmish) to throne.
- In 1240 AD, Razia became the victim of a conspiracy & was assassinated near Kaithal (Haryana).

Bahram Shah: 1240-42

- Illtutmish's third son Bahram Shah was put on throne by powerful Turkish council Chalisa.
- He was killed by Turkish nobles.

Allauddin Masud Shah: 1242-46

- He was son of Ruknuddin Feroz.
- He was disposed after Balban & Nasiruddin Mahmud's Mother, Malika-e-Jahan, conspired against him & established Nasiruddin Mahmud as the new Sultan.

Nasiruddin Mahmud 1246-66

- He was the eldest son of Illtutmish.
- Minhaj-us-Siraj has dedicated his book Tabaqat-i-Nasiri to him.

Ghiyasuddin Balban: 1266-87

- After the death of Nasiruddin; Balban ascended the throne in 1266.
- He broke the power of Chalisa & restored the prestige of the crown. He made kingship a serious profession.
- The Persian court model influenced Balban's conception of Kingship. He took up the title of Zil-i-Ilahi (Shadow of God).
- He introduced Sijda (prostration before the monarch) & Paibos (kissing the feet of monarch) as the normal forms of salutation.
- Divine right of the king was emphasized by calling himself Zil-i-Ilahi.
- He gave great emphasis on justice & maintaining law & order.
- He established the military department Diwan-i-Arz.
- In his last days he overlooked Sultanate affairs due to death of his eldest & most loving son, Muhammad, & rebellion by his closest & most loved slave, Tughril. Muhammad died fighting Mongolians in 1285 & Tughril was captured & beheaded.

Kaiqubad: 1287-90

- He was the grandson of Balban was established on the throne by Fakruddin, the Kotwal of Delhi.
- But Kaiqubad was killed by khalji nobles.

The Khilji dynasty (1290-1320 A.D.)

Jallauddin Khilji

- Jalaluddin Khilji founded the Khilji dynasty.
- He was a liberal ruler & adopted the policy of religious toleration.
- His son-in-law & nephew was Allauddin Khalji.

Allauddin Khalji (1296-1316)

- He was the first Turkish Sultan of Delhi who separated religion from politics. He proclaimed 'Kingship knows no Kinship'.
- During the reign of Jallauddin Khilji, he was the governor of Kara
- He adopted the title Sikander-e-Saini or the second Alexander
- Alauddin annexed Gujarat (1298), Ranthambhor (1301), Mewar (1303), Malwa (1305), Jalor (1311).
- In Deccan, Aluddin's army led by Malik Kafur defeated Ram Chandra (Yadava ruler of Devagiri), Pratap Rudradeva (Kakatiya ruler of Warangal), Vir Ballala III (Hoyasala ruler of Dwarsamudra) & Vir Pandya (Pandya ruler of Madurai).
- Malik Kafur was awarded the title Malik Naib.

Administrative & Market reforms during Allauddin

Allauddin issued 4 ordinances -

1. Aimed at confiscation of the religious endowments & free grants of lands.
2. Reorganized the spy system.
3. Prohibited the use of wine.
4. Nobles should not have convivial parties & they should not inter-marry without his permission.
 - He introduced the system of Dagh (the branding of horse) & Chehra (descriptive roll of soldiers).
 - Allauddin ordered that all land was to be measured & then they share of state was to be fixed.

- The post of special officer called Mustakharaj was created for the purpose of collection of revenue.
- Alauddin sought to fix cost of all commodities.
- All goods for sale were brought to an open market called Sara-i-Adal.
- Many forts were built by him & the most important of them was Alai fort. He also constructed the Alai Darwaja, the entrance gate of Qutub Minar. He also built the Palace of thousand Pillars called Hazar Sutun.
- He was a patron of art & learning. Amir Khusrau, the poet-musician was his favorite court poet.

Malik Kafur

- In 1316, after death of Alauddin, Malik Kafur seized the throne.
- Before Kafur died, he nominated Shihabuddin (Alauddin's 6 year old prince) as King but imprisoned eldest prince Mubarak Khan.
- Kafur was killed by the loyalists of the royal family of Alauddin.

The Tughlaq Dynasty

Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (1321-25)

- Ghazi Malik or Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq of Qaurana tribe was the founder of Tughlaq dynasty.
- He was the governor of Dipalpur before coming to power as Sultan.
- He died in the collapse of the victory pavilion near Delhi.

Mohammad Bin Tughlaq (1325-51)

- Prince Jauna, son of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq ascended the throne in 1325.
- He gained the title Ulugh Khan, he was most educated of all the Sultans of the Delhi Sultanate.
- He created a department Diwan-e-Amir-e-Kohi for the improvement of the agriculture.
- He distributed Sondhar i.e. agriculture loans advanced for extension of agriculture of barren land.
- He encouraged cash crops in place of cereals.

The five experiments during reign of Mohammad Bin Tughlaq -

- **Taxation in the Doab:** The Sultan made an ill-advised financial experiment in the Doab between the Ganges & Yamuna. The Sultan created a new department of Agriculture called Diwan-i-Kohi.
- **Transfer of Capital:** The most controversial step which Mohammad-bin Tughlaq undertook soon after his accession was the so called transfer of capital from Delhi to Devagiri. Devagiri was thus named Daulatabad.
- **Introduction of Token Currency:** Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq decided to introduce bronze coins, which were to have same value as the silver coins.
- **Proposed Khurasan Expedition:** The Sultan had a vision of universal conquest. He decided to conquer Khurasan & Iraq & mobilised a huge army for the purpose. He was encouraged to do so by Khurasani nobles who had taken shelter in his court. Moreover there was instability in Khurasan on account of the unpopular rule of Abu Said. This project was also abandoned because of the change in political scenario in Khurasan.
- **Quarachil Expedition:** This expedition was launched in Kumaon hills in Himalayas allegedly to counter Chinese incursions. It also appears that the expedition was directed against some refractory tribes in Kumaon-Garhwal region with the object of bringing them under Delhi Sultanate. The first attack was a success but when the rainy season set in, the invaders suffered terribly. He died in Thatta while campaigning in Sindh against Taghi, a Turkish slave.