

50+ Most Important Ancient History Questions PDF (English PDF)



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1. Which of following mauryan empire king was killed by pushyamitra shunga, his own commander in chief?

- A. Brihadratha
- B. Dasarath
- C. Samprati
- D. Devavarman

Ans. A Sol.

• **Brihadratha** was the last mauryan ruler who was killed by his own army commander, pushyamitra shunga, who started shunga dynasty.

• **Dasarath**- the mauryan ruler who took command after ashoka

• **Samprati**- son of dasaratha. Ruled from 224 BC – 215 BC

• **Devavarman** – mauryan empire ruler who ruled from 202 BC to 195 BC.

2.Which Veda is known as 'Book of Chants'?

- A. Yajurveda
- B. Samaveda
- C. Atharvaveda
- D. Rigveda

Ans. B

Sol.

• Sama Veda is known as 'Book of Chants'.

• This Veda is the musical form of the verses of the Rigveda.

• This Veda is considered to be the core of **musicology**.

• The hymns of Sama Veda were meant to be sung at the time of some sacrifice by the Udgatri priests.

3.At which Indus Valley Site, the remains of Horse bones have been found?

A. Daimabad B. Harappa C. Kalibanga D. Surkotada Ans. D Sol. In the Indus Valley Civilization the remains of **Horse bones** have been found from Surkotada site. The site at Surkotada is located **160 km** north-east of Bhuj, in the district of Kutch, Gujarat. 4.Which Shaka ruler repaired the Sudarshan lake in the semi-arid zone of Kathiawar? A. Rudradaman B. Maues C. Nahapana D. Ushavadeva Ans. A Sol. The most famous Shaka ruler in India was Rudradaman (AD 130-150). • He repaired the Sudarshan lake in the semi-arid zone of Kathiawar. He issued the first-ever longest • inscription in chaste Sanskrit at Junagarh. 5.In which state is the archaeological site of Surkotada situated? A. Karnataka B. Gujarat C. Rajasthan D. Haryana Ans. B Sol. • Surkotada is an archaeological site. • It is located in Rapar Taluka of Kutch district, Gujarat. • It belongs to the Indus Valley Civilization. 6.The Nalanda University was founded by

A. Harsha Vardhana

- B. Kumara Gupta-I
- C. Samudra Gupta
- D. Chandra Gupta





www.byjusexamprep.com Ans. B Sol. • The Nalanda University was founded by Gupta emperor Kumaragupta I. • It was patronized by various rulers including **King** Harshavardhana of to Rig Veda? A. Ganga Kannauj (7th century CE) and the Pala rulers (8th - 12th century CE) as well as B. Saraswati various scholars. C. Sindhu D. Yamuna is an ancient Sanskrit text on 7. medicine and surgery. Ans. B A. Arthashashtra Sol. B. Raghuvamsha C. Sushruta Samhita D. Abhijnanashakuntal river is Sindhu. Ans. C Sol. Rajasthan region. * "The Sushruta Samhita" is an ancient Sanskrit text on medicine and surgery. Sushruta was an ancient Indian physician. * He is known as the main author of the "Sushruta Samhita". * The Sushruta Samhita is one of the most in the west. important surviving ancient treatises on medicine and is considered a foundational text of Ayurveda. A. Kashi 8.Which Vedic period is known as Painted B. Mathura Grey Ware (PWG)? C. Pataliputra A. Later Vedic Age D. Varanasi B. Rig Vedic Age C. Yajur Vedic Age Ans. C D. Atharva Vedic Age Sol.

Ans. A

Sol.

• Later Vedic period is known as Painted Grey Ware (PWG) phase and its history is based on the later Vedic tax's which were compiled after Rig Veda. During this period Aryans spread in the regions of upper Ganga, Yamuna and Sadanira (Gandak)rice and wheat became a chief crop in the period.

• A Society divided into Varnas and Indra and Agni lost their importance and Prajapati became the supreme deity.

9. Which river is most pious river according

 According to the Rig Veda, the most pious river is Saraswati and the most mentioned

• Rigvedic Name of the river 'Saraswati' is known as Sarsuti (Modern Name) in the

• Rig Veda is the only source of knowledge for the Rig Vedic / Early Vedic Period .

• Rig Veda mentions 40 rivers.

 The Nadisukta hymn of the Rig Veda mentions 21 rivers which include the Ganges in the east and the Kubha (Kabul)

10.Udayin founded which city on the confluence of river Ganga and Son?

Udayin laid the foundation of the city of Pataliputra at the confluence of two rivers, the Son and the Ganges.

• He is also known as Udayabhadra.

• He was a king of Magadha in ancient India.

 According to the Buddhist and Jain accounts, he was the son and successor of the Haryanka king Ajatashatru.

11.On the bank of which river, Mahavira qot enlightenment? A. Rijupalika





B. Saraswati C. Krishna

D. Ravi

Ans. A Sol.

• At the age of 42, Mahavira attained Kaivalya under a Sal tree on the bank of river Rijupalika.

• Lord Mahavira was the twenty-fourth and last Jain Tirthankara according to the Jain philosophy.

• A Tirthankara is an enlightened soul who is born as a human being and attains perfection through intense meditation.

• For a Jain, Lord Mahavira is no less than God and his philosophy is like the Bible. To know more about this : <u>Click here</u>

12. Which king inscribed the Hathigumpha (Elephant Cave) inscription in Udayagiri Hills, Odisha?

- A. Galaveya
- B. Sobhanaraja
- C. Kharavela
- D. Vaduka

Ans. C

Sol.

• The Hathigumpha Inscription("Elephant Cave" inscription) was inscribed by **Kharavela**.

• The Hathigumpha is located in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

• Kharavela was the then Emperor of Kalinga.

• The Hathigumpha Inscription is the main source of information about Kalinga ruler Kharavela.

13.Vajji Mahajanpada is located

- in_____. A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Maharashtra
- D. West Bengal

Ans. B

Sol.

• **Vajji or Vrajhi** was one of the 16 Mahajanapadas of ancient India.

• It originated by joining several small states.

• Its capital was Vaishali.

• It was located on the north of River Ganga in Bihar.

14.The Gupta emperor who defeated the 'Hunas' was ?

- A. Samudragupta
- B. Chandragupta II
- C. Skandagupta
- D. Ramgupta

Ans. C Sol.

. Ne Gunta emperor

• The Gupta emperor, Skandagupta had defeated the 'Hunas'.

• Skandagupta was the last powerful king of the Gupta Empire.

• He assumed the title of Vikramaditya, Devraj and Sakapan.

15.Which among the following metal was not found in Harappan civilization?

- A. Gold
- B. Copper
- C. Silver
- D. Iron

Ans. D Sol.

• Iron was **not** found in Harappan civilization.

• Since it was a **bronze age** civilization, it had made many metallurgical advances in copper and bronze, but not in Iron.

• Iron was not known to Indus valley civilization. The **first evidence of Iron** is found about 1000 BC from Ataranjikhera in Etah district.



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16.Who is considered the founder of the Gupta Empire?

A. Sri Gupta

B. Chandra Gupta II

C. Chandra Gupta I

D. Samudra Gupta

Ans. A

Sol.

The Gupta Empire was an ancient Indian empire, founded by Maharaja Sri Gupta (240-280 AD), which existed at its zenith from approximately 320 to 550 CE and covered much of the Indian Subcontinent.
Chandragupta-I (c. 319-335 AD) was the son of Ghatotkacha and is considered to be the real founder of the Gupta Empire. He was the most powerful monarch and assumed the title of Maharajadhiraja.

17.Who was the main female God worshipped by Indus people?

- A. Mother Goddess
- B. Durga
- C. Laxmi
- D. Vaishnavi

Ans. A

Sol.

The people of the Indus Valley worshipped Goddess Mother and also worshipped animals and trees.

• But there is a complete lack of remains of temples in the Indus Civilization.

• A terracotta figure where a plant is shown growing out of the embryo of a woman represents Mother Goddess or Goddess of Earth.

18.The Battle of _____ was fought in 326 BC by Alexander, the Great against King Porus

- A. Hydaspes
- B. Tarain
- C. Panipat
- D. Plassey

Ans. A

Sol.

• The Battle of Hydaspes was fought in 326 BC by Alexander against King Porus.

• After defeat, porous was captured and bought in front of Alexender and he asked porous how he should treat him and porous replies that he be treated like how Alexander himself would expect to be treated.

• Porous was an extraordinary brave Indian king who ruled in the region between Hydaspes and Acesines.

19.The people of the Indus valley civilization worshipped _____.

- A. Vishnu
- B. Pashupati
- C. Indra
- D. Brahma

Ans. B

Sol.

• The **Pashupati Seal** is the name of a steatite seal that was discovered at the Mohenjo-Daro archaeological site of the Indus Valley Civilization.

• The seal was uncovered in 1928-29.

• Pashupati is an incarnation of the Hindu god Shiva.

20.In which university Chinese traveler Hieun Tsang spend his some years ?

- A. Takshshila University
- B. Nalanda University
- C. Kashi
- D. Mathura

Ans. B

Sol. • **Hieun Tsang** was the Chinese traveller who spent his some years in Nalanda University .

• He also wrote a book which contained lots of information about Harshavardhana.

• It is believed that after Hieun Tsang's visit, Harshavardhana sent a mission to China , which established the first diplomatic relations between China and India .





21.Fa-hien visited India during the reign of

- A. Chandragupta II
- B. Samudragupta
- C. Ramagupta
- D. Kumaragupta

Ans. A

Sol.

• Fa-hien visit to India occurred during the reign of Chandragupta II.

• He is also renowned for his pilgrimage to Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautama Buddha (modern Nepal). Faxian claimed that demons and dragons were the original inhabitants of Sri Lanka.

22. The famous physician Jeevaka was appointed by the court of :

- A. Samudragupta
- B. Ashoka
- C. Krishnadeva Raya
- D. Bimbisara

Ans. D Sol.

• The famous physician Jeevaka was appointed in the court of **Bimbisara**.

• He is generally known as **'King of Medicine'** and his accounts are also mentioned in Buddhist texts.

• Pali texts often describe Jīvaka giving treatments to the Buddha for several ailments.

• Saketa, Benaras, Vaisali and Ujjain were some places were jeevika travelled and performed his medicinal proficiency there also.

23.Which of the following rivers was known as Purushni in the Vedic period?

- A. Chenab
- B. Ravi
- C. Sutlej
- D. Beas

Ans. B

Sol.

* River Ravi was known as Purushni in the Vedic period.

- * Chenab was known as Asikini in the Vedic period.
- * Beas was known as Vipasa in the Vedic period.

* Sutlej was known as Sutudri in the Vedic period.

24.Menander and Nagasena's conversation were recorded in the book _____.

A. Arthashastra

B. Milindapanho

- C. Si-Yu-Ki
- D. None of these

Ans. B

Sol.

• **Menander** reigned around 90-85 BC in Gandhara, north of modern Pakistan and parts of Afghanistan.

• It was Menander who has been mentioned as the mighty **Yavana King of Sakala**.

• Menander and Nagasena's conversation were recorded in the book **Milindapanho** or 'the questions of Milinda'.

25.Which one of the following was the port city of the Indus Valley Civilization?

A. Harappa

- B. Lothal
- C. Mohenjodara
- D. Pali

Ans. B

Sol.

Lothal is one of the most prominent cities of the ancient Indus valley civilization, located in the Bhal region of the modern state of Gujarat and dating from 3700 BCE.
Lothal is the port city of the Indus Valley Civilization.

26.Harappan civilization tools and weapons were mostly made of which metal?

- A. Stone and Copper
- B. Copper, bronze and iron
- C. Copper, tin and bronze
- D. All of the above





Ans. C

Sol.

Harappan civilization tools and weapons were mostly made of copper, tin and bronze.

• The Harappan Culture is belongs to Bronze Age.

• In this Era Bronze was made by mixing tin and copper.

• For making bronze, copper was obtained from Khetri in Rajasthan and from Baluchistan, and tin from Afghanistan.

27.Which Gupta ruler among the following was the first to assume the title of the 'Maharajadhiraja'?

A. Sri Gupta

B. Ghatotkacha

C. Chandragupta I

D. Chandragupta II

Ans. C

Sol.

Chandragupta I, the son of Ghatotkacha, ruled from 319 to 335 CE and is considered to be the first great king of the Gupta Empire. Chandragupta held the title of Maharajadhiraja (great king over other kings). He ruled over Saketa (the region of Prayaga (Allahabad) and Ayodhya), Magadha.

28.In which Jain Council, 12 Angas were compiled?

A. First Council

B. Second Council

C. Third Council

D. Fourth Council

Ans. A Sol.

• First Jain Council was established in Pataliputra in 300 BC under the chairmanship of Shatulabhadra.

• Chandragupta Maurya was the ruler of the Maurya dynasty during this council.

• During this council, 12 Angas were compiled.

29.Chandragupta Maurya also called as 'Sandrocottus' or 'Androcottus' by

A. Greek Scholars

B. Chinese Scholars

C. European Scholars

D. Indian Scholars

Ans. A

Sol. Chandragupta Maurya also called as 'Sandrocottus' or 'Androcottus' by Greek Scholars.

Chandragupta defeated Seleucus Nicator , the General of Alexander in North West India in 305 BC.

• Seleucus surrendered a vast territory in return for five hundred elephants.

Selucus also sent the Greek Ambassador Megasthenese to the court of Chandragupta Maurya.

30.The second Jain Council was held at

A. Pataliputra

B. Vallabhi

C. Kashi

D. Varanasi

Ans. B

Sol.

 The second Jain Council was held at Vallabhi, Gujarat in AD 512.

Devardhi Kshmasramana was the • chairman of this council.

• It resulted in the final compilation of 12 Angas and 12 Upangas.

31.What does 'Jataka' means in Buddhist literature?

A. Text related to buddha's struggle for search of truth

B. Text related to previous birth of buddha

C. Text related to dhamma of buddha D. Text related to auspicious rituals of

buddhism

Ans. B

Sol.

• 'Jataka' are basically previous birth stories of Buddha.



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• `Jataka' are mentioned in **Khuddka Nikaya of Sutta Pitaka**.

• 'Jataka' are also inscribed on **toran gates** and walls of Buddhist stupas.

• In Khuddak nikaya more than 500 tales of Buddha's former life are mentioned.

32. Dhanvantri and Kalidasa were in the court of which Gupta Emperor?

A. Kumara Gupta I

- B. Chandra Gupta II
- C. Samudra Gupta
- D. Skanda Gupta

Ans. B

Sol.

• The court of Chandragupta II was made even more illustrious by the fact that it was graced by the navaratna, a group of nine who excelled in the literary arts. Dhanvantri and Kalidasa were in the court of Chandra Gupta II.

• Kalidasa is the immortal poet and playwright of India and a peerless genius whose works became famous worldwide in modern world.

• Dhanvantri was a great Physician.

33.The first ruler of Magadha from the Haryanka dynasty was _____.

A. Bimbisara

- B. Prasenajit
- C. Ajatshatru
- D. Ashoka

Ans. A

Sol.

• **Bimbisara** was the first ruler of the Haryanka dynasty.

Haryanka dynasty, believed to began its reign in the middle of the 6th century BCE.
The initial capital of Haryanka dynasty was Rajagriha which was later shifted to Pataliputra.

34.What was the capital of Matsya Mahajanapada? A. Mathura B. Champa C. Viratnagar

D. Banaras

Ans. C

Sol.

• Viratnagar or Bairat was the capital of Matsya Mahajanapada which is currently located in the region of Alwar and Jaipur.

• Matsya Mahajanapada was one of the important Mahajanapada out of sixteen. It is mentioned in Buddhist text Anguttar Nikaya.

35.Which city of Indus Valley Civilization is known as city without citadel?

- A. Harappa
- B. Rangpur
- C. Lothal
- D. Chanhudaro

Ans. D

Sol.

• **Chanhudaro** is an archaeological site belonging to the post-urban Jhukar phase of Indus valley civilization.

• It is situated on the banks of the **Indus** river.

• It was discovered by **M.G Majumdar** in **1931**.

• It was the only Indus city without a citadel.

36.Who among the following was a Gupta ruler?

- A. Dhana Nanda
- B. Kanishka
- C. Vikramaditya
- D. Vima Kadphises

Ans. C Sol.

• Vikramditya was an eminent Gupta leader.

• He is also known as **Chandragupta II**. His daughter **Prabhavatigupta** was queen of Vataka Kingdom; **Recently in 2020** seals of her reign are found in excavations.



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• He assumed the titles Bhattaraka and Maharajadhiraja.

• Dhana Nanda was the last ruler of Nanda Dynasty after which Mauryan Dynasty came into power.

• Kaniska was the greatest king of Kushana Dynasty. He was the founder of Shaka Era of 78 AD and he also organized 4th Buddhist Council in Kashmir.

• Vima Kadphises was a Kunhan King whose information is derived from Rabatak Inscription.

37. The script of Indus Valley Civilization is A. Alphabetical

B. Pictographic

C. Both A & B

D. None of these

Ans. B

Sol.

The Indus Valley Civilization script is not alphabetical but it is pictographic.

• The script has not been deciphered yet, but overlaps of letters show that it was written from right to left in the first line and left to right in the second line. This style is called 'Boustrophe

38.Who wrote "Mrichchhakatika"?

A. Deva Datta

- B. Vishakshadatta
- C. Amar Singh
- D. Sudraka

Ans. D

Sol.

• Mrichchhakatika (The Little Clay Cart) is a ten-act Sanskrit drama attributed to Sudraka.

• It is an ancient playwright (possibly from the 5th century AD).

• The play is set in the ancient city of Ujjayini during the reign of the King Palaka, near the end of the Pradyota dynasty.

•The hero (Nayaka) is Charudatta, a noble but impoverished Brahmin and heroine is Nagaravadhu Vasantsena. Poverty is one of the most central themes of the play.

39.Bhagvad Gita is extracted from which parvan of Mahabharata?

A. Drona Parva

- B. Karna Parva
- C. Bhisma Parva
- D. Adi Parva

Ans. C

Sol.

 The Bhishma Parva describes the first 10 days of the great war between Pandavas and Kauravas.

• It includes Bhagvad Gita, the dialogue between Arjuna and Krishna on why and when war must be fought, dharma and the paths to liberation.

• Mahabharata is written by Veda Vyasa, in Sanskrit.

• The Mahabharata has been written in eighteen books, called parvas.

40.Which Indus city was known for water management system?

- A. Dholavira
- B. Harappa
- C. Lothal
- D. None of these

Ans. A

Sol.

Dholavira was known for the water management system.

• This city had settlements with some of the ancient world's most sophisticated sewage systems.

 Dholavira is flanked by two storm water channels; the Mansar in the north, and the Manhar in the south.

 This site was discovered in 1967-68 by J. P. Joshi.

41.Who was the last ruler of Nanda Dynasty?

- A. Parmananda
- B. Dhanananda
- C. Mahapadmananda
- D. Nandivardhan





Ans. B Its objective was to purify the Buddhist movement. Sol. • Dhanananda was the last ruler of Nanda Dvnastv. 44.Which of the following archaeological • He was one of nine Sons of Mahapadma sites has evidence of pit-dwellings? A. Rana Ghundai Nanda. B. Mehrgarh • **Dhanananda** is referred to as Agrammes or Xandrames by Diodorus. The Name C. Burzahom Agrammes is possibly a distorted form of D. Palavov the sanskrit. Ans. C 42. Who was the twenty third Tirthankara ? Sol. A. Sumit • The evidence of 'pit-dwellings' have been B. Rishabhdev discovered from Burzahom and Gufkaral. C. Mahaveer D. Parsvnath • The Burzahom archaeological site is located in Jammu and Kashmir. • It is the northernmost excavated Ans. D Sol. Neolithic site of India. Parshvanatha is also known as Parshva and Paras, was the 23rd of 24 Tirthankaras. 45.Who was the last great ruler of the Gupta dynasty? A. Skandagupta He was the spiritual successor of 22nd tirthankara Neminath. B. Chandragupta II C. Vishnugupta • He is popularly seen as a propagator and D. Samudraqupta reviver of lainism. Ans. A Parshvanatha attained moksha on Mount Sol. Skandagupta was considered as last of Sammeta (Madhuban, Jharkhand) in the Ganges basin. great Gupta rulers. He repelled Huna attack around 455 CE, 43.In which city was the third Buddhist but the expense of the wars drained the Council held? empire's resources and contributed to its A. Pataliputra decline. B. Sarasvati • He was followed by weak gupta rulers. C. Taxila D. Rangoon 46.In which Buddhist Council, Sutta Pitaka and Vinaya Pitaka were compiled? Ans. A A. Second Council Sol. B. Third Council First Buddhist Council was held at C. Fourth Council D. First Council

Rajgriha, second was at Vaisali **third was** at **Patliputra** and fourth was held at Harwan.

• The third Buddhist Council was **convened by king Ashoka** under the leadership of the monk Moggaliputta Tissa.

Ans. D Sol.

• The Sutta Pitaka and Vinaya Pitaka were compiled during the first Buddhist council.





• The First Buddhist Council was held soon after the Mahaparinirvan of the Buddha, **around 483 BC** under the patronage of **King Ajatshatru**.

• It was presided by Mahakasyapa.

• The council was held in the **Sattapani cave at Rajgriha**. The council was held with the purpose of preserving Buddha's teachings (Sutta) and rules for disciples. During this council, the teachings of Buddha were divided into three Pitakas.

47.Which is the southern most site of Indus Valley Civilization?

A. Daimabad

B. Alamgirpur

C. Lothal

D. Mohenjodaro

Ans. A

Sol.

• **Daimabad** is an archaeological site.

• It is located on the left bank of the Pravara River, a tributary of the Godavari River in Shrirampur taluka in Ahmednagar district of **Maharashtra**.

• This site was discovered by **B. P. Bopardikar** in **1958**.

• Daimabad site is the **southern most site** of Indus Valley Civilization.

• Earlier Bhagtrav or Daimabad of Gujarat was the Southern most site of Indus Valley Civilization.

48.The ______ era is also known as the `age of mammals'.

A. Neozoic

B. Palaeozoic

- C. Cenozoic
- D. Mesozoic

Ans. C

Sol.

• The Cenozoic era is also known as the 'age of mammals'.

• The Cenozoic is called the Age of Mammals, because the largest land animals have been mammals during that time. • The Cenozoic spans only about 65 million years, from the end of the Cretaceous Period and the extinction of non-avian dinosaurs to the present.

49.Among the following who was the teacher of Gautama Buddha? A. Panini

B. Alara Kalama

C. Patanjali

D. Kapila

Ans. B

Sol.

• After Gautama became an ascetic, he went to Alara Kalama, who was a teacher that taught a kind of early samkhya at Vessali.

• Alara taught Gautama Buddha meditation, especially a dhyanic state called the "sphere of nothingness".

• Gautama Buddha eventually equalled Alara, who could not teach him more, saying, "You are the same as I am now and there is no difference between us.

• Alara Kalama advised Gautam Buddha to stay there and take his place and teach his students with him but "Gautama Buddha was not interested in staying.

• After leaving, the Buddha found a new teacher, Udraka Ramaputta.

50.Megasthenes, a Greek historian visited India in the reign of which ruler in the $4^{\rm th}$ century B .C?

- A. Ashoka
- B. Bindusara
- C. Chandragupta Maurya
- D. Alexander





Ans. C Sol.

* Megasthenes was a Greek historian who visited India in the reign of Chandragupta Maurya, in the 4th century B.C.
 * In India, Megasthenes keenly observed

* In India, Megasthenes keenly observed the the system of the court in India.

* Megasthenes wrote the book 'Indica'.







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