

Society and Culture in Ancient Tamizhagam: The Sangam Age

I. Choose the correct answer

Question 1.

Pattini cult in Tamil Nadu was introduced by

- (a) PandyanNeduncheliyan
- (b) CheranSenguttuvan
- (c) IlangoAdigal
- (d) Mudathirumaran

Answer:

- (b) CheranSenguttuvan

Question 2.

Which dynasty was not in power during the Sangam Age?

- (a) Pandyas
- (b) Cholas
- (c) Pallavas
- (d) Cheras

Answer:

- (c) Paliavas

Question 3.

The rule of Pandyas was followed by

- (a) Satavahanas
- (b) Cholas
- (c) Kalabhras
- (d) Pallavas

Answer:

- (c) Kalabhras

Question 4.

The lowest unit of administration during the Sangam Age was

- (a) Mandalam
- (b) Nadu
- (c) Ur

(d) Pattinam

Answer:

(c) Ur

Question 5.

What was the occupation of the inhabitants of the Kurinji region?

- (a) Plundering
- (b) Cattle rearing
- (c) Hunting and gathering
- (d) Agriculture

Answer:

(c) Hunting and gathering

II. Read the statement and tick the appropriate answer

Question 1.

Assertion (A): The assembly of the poets was known as Sangam.

Reason (R): Tamil was the language of Sangam literature.

- (a) Both A and R are true. R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true. R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true but R is false.
- (d) Both A and R is not true.

Answer:

(a) Both A and R are true. R is the correct explanation of A

Question 2.

Which of the following statements are not true?

- a. Karikala won the battle of Talayalanganam.
 - b. The Pathitirupathu provides information about Chera Kings.
 - c. The earliest literature of the Sangam age was written mostly in the form of prose
- a. 1 only
 - b. 1 and 3 only
 - c. 2 only

Answer:

(b) 1 and 3 only

Question 3.

The ascending order of the administrative division in the ancient Tamizhagam was

- (a) Ur < Nadu < Kurram < Mandalam
- (b) Ur < Kurram < Nadu < Mandalam
- (c) Ur < Mandalam < Kurram < Nadu
- (d) Nadu < Kurram < Mandalam < Ur

Answer:

- (b) Ur < Kurram < Nadu < Mandalam

Question 4.

Match the following dynasties with the Royal Insignia

a)	Chera	1)	Fish
b)	Chola	2)	Tiger
c)	Pandya	3)	Bow and arrow

- A) 3 2 1
- B) 1 2 3
- C) 3 1 2
- D) 2 1 3

Answer:

- A) 3 2 1

III. Fill in the blanks

1. The battle of Venni was won by
2. The earliest Tamil grammar work of the Sangam period was
3. built Kallanai across the river Kaveri.
4. The chief of the army was known as
5. Land revenue was called

Answer:

1. Karikal Valavan
2. Tholkappiyam
3. Karikalan
4. Thanai thalaivan
5. Irai

IV. True or False

1. Caste system developed during the Sangam period.

2. Kizhar was the village chief.
3. Puhar was the general term for city.
4. Coastal region was called Marudham.

Answer:

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. False

V. Match

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---------|
| a) Thennar | - | Cheras |
| b) Vanavar | - | Cholas |
| c) Senni | - | Velir |
| d) Adiyaman | - | Pandyas |

Answer:

1. - d
2. - a
3. - b
4. - c

VI. Answer in one or two sentences

Question 1.

Name any two literary sources to reconstruct the history of ancient Tamizhagam?

Answer:

Tholkappiyam, Ettuthogai, and Patthupattu are some of the literary sources to reconstruct the history of ancient Tamizhagam.

Question 2.

What was Natukkal or Virakkal?

Answer:

1. The ancient Tamils had great respect for the heroes who died on the battlefield.
2. The hero stones were created to commemorate heroes who sacrificed their lives in war. These hero stones were known as Natukkal or Virakkal.

Question 3.

Name five things mentioned in the Sangam literature.

Answer:

1. Kurinji.
2. Mullai.
3. Marutham.
4. Neithal.
5. Palai.

Question 4.

Name any two archaeological sites related to Sangam period.

Answer:

The excavated materials from Adichanallur, Arikamedu, Kodumanal, Puhar, Korkai, Alankulam, Urariyur etc.

Question 5.

Name the seven patrons (KadaiyeluVallalgal).

Answer:

The seven patrons were

1. Pari
2. Kari
3. Ori
4. Pegan
5. Ay
6. Adiyaman
7. Nalli

Question 6.

Name any three Tamil poetic works of Kalabhra period.

Answer:

Periapuranam, Seevakachinthamani, and Kundalakesi were written during the Kalabhra

VII. Answer the following**Question 1.**

Discuss the status of women in the Sangam Society.

Answer:

1. In the Sangam Society, there were learned and wise women.
2. Forty women poets had lived
3. Marriage was a matter of choice.
4. Chastity (Karpū) was considered the highest virtue.
5. In their Parents' property sons and daughters had equal shares.

VIII. HOTS

Question 1.

KarikalValavan is regarded as the greatest Chola king. Justify.

Answer:

1. Karikal Valavan or Karikalan was the most famous of the Chola kings.
2. He defeated the combined army of the Cheras, Pandyas and the eleven Velir Chieftains who supported them at Venni, a small village in the Thanjavur region.
3. He converted forests into cultivable lands.
4. He built Kallanai across the river Kaveri to develop agriculture.
5. Their port Puhar attracted merchants from various regions of the Indian Ocean.
6. The Pattinapaalai a poetic work in the pathinenkeezhkanakku gives elaborate information of the trading activity during the rule of Karikalan.

Question 2.

The period ilabhra is not a dark age. Give reasons.

Answer:

1. Following the Sangam period, the Kalabhras had occupied Tamil Country for about two and half centuries.
2. There is evidence of their rule in literary texts.
3. The literary sources for this period include Tamil Navalar Charithai, Yapemkalam and Periapuranam.
4. Seevakachinthamani and Kundalakesi were also written during this period.
5. In Tamizhagam, Jainism and Buddhism became prominent during this period
6. Introduction of Sanskrit and Prakrit languages had resulted in the development of a new script called Vattezhuthu.
7. Many works under Pathinenkeezhkanakku were composed.

8. Trade and commerce continued to flourish during this period.
9. So the Kalabhra period is not a dark age, as it is portrayed.

X. Life skill (For Students)

Collect and paste the pictures of landscape and find out the eco – region to which belongs. Write the important crops grown and occupation of the people there.

XI. Answer Grid

Question 1.

Mention two epics of the Sangam period.

Answer:

1. Silapathikaram
2. Manimegalai

Question 2.

Name the two groups of officials who assisted the king.

Answer:

1. Aimperunguzhu
2. Enberayam

Question 3.

Name any two women poets of the Sangam period.

Answer:

1. Awaiyar, Velli
2. Veethiyar

Question 4.

Name any three major ports of Sangam age.

Answer:

1. Musiri
2. Tondi
3. Korkai

Question 5.

What constituted Muthamizh?

Answer:

1. Iyal
2. Isai
3. Naatakam

Question 6.

Silapathikaram was written by

Answer:

Ilango Adigal

Question 7.

Talayanganam is related to which Pandya king?

Answer:

Nedunchezhiyan

Question 8.

Which ecoregion was called menpulam?

Answer:

Marutham

Question 9.

The lighthouses in the ports are called

Answer:

1. Kalangari
2. flangu Sudar

I. Choose the Correct Answer:

Question 1.

According to Prof.George L.Hart Tanial is as old as

- (a) Chinese
- (b) Greek
- (c) Latin
- (d) English

Answer:

(c) Latin

Question 2.

The epic character from Silappathikaram

- (a) Pallavas
- (b) Cheras
- (c) Pandyas
- (d) Cholas

Answer:

(d) Cholas

Question 3.

..... is the port of Pandvas.

- (a) Puhar
- (b) Korgai
- (c) Muziri
- (d) Tondi

Answer:

(b) Korgai

Question 4.

Bow and arrow as the symbol of

- (a) Kalabhras
- (b) Cholas
- (c) Cheras
- (d) Pandyas

Answer:

(c) Cheras

II. Read the statement and tick the appropriate answer

Question 1.

Assertion (A): The Kalabhra period is not a dark age.

Reason (R): It is known about the literary sources, new script and flourishing of trade and commerce.

- (a) Both A and R are true. R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true. R is the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true but R is false.

(d) Both A and R is not true.

Answer:

(b) Both A and R are true. R is the correct explanation of A.

Question 2.

Which of the following statements are not true?

- (1) Pandyas garlanded Fig (Athi) flower.
 - (2) The deity of the kurinji people is Indiran.
 - (3) The author of 'Natural History' is Pliny the younger
- (a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 2 and 3

Answer:

(b) 2 and 3

III. Answer the following

Question 1.

What were the ornaments made of?

Answer:

- 1. Gold
- 2. Silver
- 3. Pearls
- 4. Precious stones
- 5. Conch shells
- 6. Beads

Question 2.

What were the main imports?

Answer:

- 1. Topaz
- 2. Tin
- 3. Wine
- 4. Glass
- 5. Horses

Question 3.

What do you know about Indian silk?

Answer:

The silk supplied by Indians, merchants to the Roman Empire was very important. .

The Roman emperor Aurelian declared it to be worth its weight in gold.

Question 4.

What is the Royal Insignia?

Answer:

1. Sceptre
2. Drum
3. White umbrella

VII. Answer the following

Question 1.

Explain the Religious Beliefs and Social Divisions in the Sangam Society. The primary deity of the Tamils was Seyon or Murugan.

Answer:

1. The other worshipped gods were Sivan, Mayon (Vishnu), Indiran, Varunan and Kotravai.
2. The Hero stone (natukkal) worship was in practice
3. Buddhism and Jainism also co-existed.
4. As it did in northern India caste did not develop in Tamizhagam.
5. Varuna system came to the Dravidian south comparatively late.

Question 2.

What was said by George L Hart about the Tamil language?

Answer:

1. George L. Hart, Professor of Tamil language at the University of California, has said that Tamil is as old as Latin.
2. The language arose as an entirely independent tradition with no influence of other languages.

VII. Mind map

