

Ancient India

DIRECTION (Qs. 1): The following items consists of two statements, Statement-I and Statement-II. You are to examine these two statements carefully and select the answers to these items using the code given below.

1. Statement-I: The first coins to bear the names and images of rulers were issued by the Kushanas.

Statement-II: The first gold coins were issued by the Kushanas. [2014-II]

Code:

- (a) Both the statements are individually true and Statement-II is the correct explanation of Statement-I.
 (b) Both the statements are individually true but Statement-II is not the correct explanation of Statement-I.
 (c) Statement-I is true but Statement-II is false
 (d) Statement-I is false but Statement-II is true.

2. Who among the following was associated with the formulation of the basic ideas of the Mahayana Buddhism? [2014-II]

- (a) Nagarjuna (b) Kashyapa Matanga
 (c) Menander (d) Kanishka

3. Consider the following statements about Harappan Culture: [2014-II]

1. The Harappan Culture matured in Sind and Punjab.
 2. It spread from there to Southwards and Eastwards
 3. The area, where it spread, was bigger than Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

4. Megasthenes was a [2014-II]

- (a) Greek ambassador to the court of Chandragupta Maurya
 (b) Greek trader during Ashoka's time
 (c) Greek trader in the Gupta period
 (d) Chinese pilgrim during Harsha's time

5. Which one of the following is the correct sequence of appearance of the poet-saints of the Bhakti-Sufi tradition? [2014-II]

- (a) Basavanna - Appar - Mira Bai - Lal Ded
 (b) Appar - Mira Bai - Lal Ded - Basavanna
 (c) Appar - Basavanna - Lal Ded - Mira Bai
 (d) Basavanna - Mira Bai - Lal Ded - Appar

6. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists: [2015-II]

List-I (Dynasty)		List-II (Architecture)	
A.	Chalukyas	1.	Sun Temple, Konark
B.	Hoysalas	2.	Pattadakal Temples
C.	Pandyas	3.	Kesava Temple, Somnathpur
D.	Eastern Gangas	4.	Eastern gopura of Chidambaram Temple

Code:

- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| (b) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (c) | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| (d) | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |

7. Consider the following statements about Rashtrakuta kings:

[2016-I]

1. They were ardent patrons of Shaivism and did not support other forms of religion.
 2. They promoted only Sanskrit scholars and gave them large grants

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

8. Consider the following statements:

[2016-II]

1. The *Arthashastra* is the first Indian text to define a State.
 2. The main concerns of the *Arthashastra* are theoretical issues like the origins of the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (c) 2 only
 (b) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

9. Consider the following statements:

[2016-III]

1. *Periplus* is a Greek word meaning sailing around.
 2. *Erythraean* was the Greek name for the Mediterranean Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. Consider the following statements about the Nagara style of temple architecture: [2017-II]

1. This style of temples are commonly found in the areas between Himalayas and Vindhya.
2. The most striking feature of this style is its pyramidal shikhara.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

11. Ashoka's connection with Buddhism is evident from which one of the following edicts? [2017-II]

- (a) Major Rock Edict 13 (b) Rock Edict 6
(c) Minor Rock Edict 1 (d) Pillar Edict 4

12. In the Mesopotamian records, which one of the following terms was used for the Indus Valley (Harappans)? [2017-II]

- (a) Dilmun (b) Meluha
(c) Magan (d) Failaka

13. Which of the following is/are NOT historical biography/biographies? [2018-I]

1. Dipavamsa 2. Harshacharita
3. Vikramankadevacharita 4. Prithvirajavijaya

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

14. Which of the following clans are included in the Agnikula Rajputs? [2018-I]

1. Pratiharas 2. Chaulukyas
3. Paramaras 4. Chahamanas

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (d) 2 and 4 only

15. Harappan crafts display an amazing degree of standardization. According to Kenoyer, what was the possible reason for such an achievement? [2018-II]

- (a) Availability of raw materials at local level
(b) Centralized markets for crafts
(c) Specialized training centres for craftsmen
(d) State control

16. Consider the following statements about Ashokan rock edicts: [2018-II]

1. Major Rock Edict XIII records Ashoka's remorse at the sufferings caused by his Kalinga campaign.
2. Major Rock Edict X records Ashoka's visit to Lumbini.
3. Major Rock Edict XII refers to *Dhamma Mahamattas* as a new category of officers instituted by Ashoka.
4. Major Rock Edict XII speaks about showing tolerance towards all sects.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 4 only (b) 2 and 3
(c) 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 3 and 4

17. Which one of the following is the common element among Rajagriha, Vaishali and Pataliputra? [2018-II]

- (a) Pali canon of the Sthaviravadins was compiled there
(b) Ashokan Major Rock Edicts were found there
(c) Places where Buddhist Councils were held
(d) Places associated with the compilation of Buddhist canons of the Mahasanghikas

18. Which one among the following sects was associated with Gosala Maskariputra? [2018-II]

- (a) Vajrayana (b) Ajivikas
(c) Sthaviravadins (d) Mahasanghikas

19. In the Manusmriti which form of marriage results from the "Voluntary union of a maiden and her lover"? [2019-I]

- (a) Eighth form (b) Fifth form
(c) Seventh form (d) Sixth form

20. The speakers of major Indian languages belong to how many language families? [2020-I & II]

- (a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Six

21. Which one of the following Harappan sites was a specialised centre for making shell object? [2021-I]

- (a) Lothal (b) Balakot
(c) Amri (d) Kot Diji

22. Which one of the following was not a part of the dhamma of King Ashoka? [2021-I]

- (a) Honouring the king
(b) Tolerance of religions other than one's own
(c) Respecting Brahmanas
(d) Promoting the welfare of his subjects

23. Early Buddhist sculptors did not show Buddha in human form. Through which of the following symbols was Buddha's presence shown by the early sculptors? [2022-I]

- (a) Empty Seat and Stupa only
(b) Wheel and Tree only
(c) Wheel, Tree and Stupa only
(d) Empty Seat, Wheel, Tree and Stupa

24. The 13th Century text Lekhapaddhati gives us information on which one of the following topics? [2022-I]

- (a) Art of writing (b) Essay writing
(c) Legal document (d) Epigraphic style

25. When did Charaka Samhita originate? [2022-I]

- (a) 6th Century BCE
(b) 3rd to 2nd Century BCE
(c) 4th Century BCE
(d) 5th Century BCE

26. Which Chinese traveller in ancient India wrote the diary called 'Records of the Travels to Middle India'? [2022-I]

- (a) Wang Xuance (b) Xuanzang
(c) Yijing (d) Li Yibiao

27. Which one of the following was composed by Harishena? [2022-II]

- (a) Nashik Inscription of Gautami Balashri
(b) Prayaga Prashasti of Samudragupta
(c) Deopara Prashasti of Vijayasena
(d) Hathigumpha Inscription of Kharavela

28. Which one of the following rivers in India was not crossed by Alexander and his army? [2022-II]

- (a) Hyphasis (b) Acesines
(c) Hydraotes (d) Hydaspes

29. At which among the following Harappan sites are fire altars found? [2022-II]

- (a) Kalibangan (b) Harappa
(c) Mohenjo-daro (d) Rakhi Garhi

30. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists: [2022-II]

	List-I (Mahamatta)		List-II (Funciton)
A.	Anta-mahamatta	1.	Women's welfare
B.	Ithijhakha mahamatta	2.	Spread of Dhamma
C.	Dhamma-mahamatta	3.	Associated with city administration
D.	Nagalaviyohalaka-mahamatta	4.	In-charge of fromtier areas

Code:

- (a) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4 (b) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4
(c) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3 (d) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3
31. Near which one of the following cities in India have large statues of Kushana rulers been discovered? [2023-I]
- (a) Karnal (b) Ropar
(c) Hisar (d) Mathura
32. Which one of the following statements about Rabatak inscription is **not** correct? [2023-I]
- (a) It throws important light on Kushana genealogy.
(b) It refers to Kanishka as 'a king of kings and a son of God'.
(c) The 23-line inscription is written in Gandhari language.
(d) It mentions names of States which were part of Kanishka's empire.
33. Which one among the following rulers established Pataliputra as the capital of the Magadhan Empire? [2023-I]
- (a) Bimbisara (b) Bindusara
(c) Ajatahatru (d) Ashoka
34. Who among the following composed the 'Prayag Prashasti' of Samudragupta? [2023-I]
- (a) Harishena (b) Chand Bardai
(c) Vishakhadatta (d) Kalidasa
35. Consider the following statements: [2023-II]
1. Terracotta models of the plough have been found at sites in Cholistan and at Banawali (Haryana).
 2. There is evidence of a ploughed field at Kalibangan associated with the mature phase of the Harappan civilization.
 3. The ploughed field at Kalibangan had two sets of furrows crossing at right angles to each other suggesting two different crops were grown together in it.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) None of the above

36. Consider the following statements about the emergence of urban centres in India from circa 6th Century BCE: [2024-I]

1. All of them developed away from the capitals of *mahajanpadas*.
2. Major towns were located along routes of communication.
3. Many were bustling centres of commercial, cultural and political activity.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) None

37. Consider the following statements about ancient Indian inscriptions: [2024-I]

1. The earliest inscriptions are in Sanskrit.
2. Kharosthi script, used in inscriptions in the north-west, was deciphered with the help of coins of Indo-Greek kings who ruled over the area.
3. Most of the inscriptions mention grand, unique events, and routine agricultural practices do not find mention.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) None

38. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists: [2024-I]

	List-I (Unit in use in early India)		List-II (Content)
A.	Muhurta	1.	Measure of weight
B.	Raktika	2.	Measure of time
C.	Angula	3.	Metre of poetry
D.	Pada	4.	Measure of length

Code:

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| | A | B | C | D |
| (a) | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| (b) | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| (c) | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| (d) | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |

39. First coins in Indian history bearing the names and images of rulers were issued by the: [2024-I]

- (a) Mauryas (b) Pushyabhutis
(c) Guptas (d) Indo-Greeks

ANSWER KEY

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d) | 2. (a) | 3. (d) | 4. (a) | 5. (c) | 6. (d) | 7. (d) | 8. (a) | 9. (a) | 10. (a) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (b) | 13. (a) | 14. (c) | 15. (d) | 16. (a) | 17. (c) | 18. (b) | 19. (d) | 20. (c) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (a) | 23. (d) | 24. (c) | 25. (b) | 26. (b) | 27. (b) | 28. (a) | 29. (a) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (d) | 32. (c) | 33. (*) | 34. (a) | 35. (a) | 36. (b) | 37. (b) | 38. (a) | 39. (d) | |



EXPLANATIONS



1. (d) The first coins to bear the names and images of rulers were issued by the Indo-Greeks, who established control over the north-western part of the subcontinent c. second century BCE. The Kushanas, however, issued the largest hoards of gold coins first gold coins c. first century CE.

2. (a) Nagarjuna is widely considered to be the founder of the Madhyamaka school of Buddhist philosophy and a defender of the Mahayana movement.

His *Mulamadhyamakakarika* (Root Verses on Madhyamaka, MMK) is the most important text on the Madhyamaka philosophy of emptiness.

3. (d) The Harappan culture evolved into a major urban civilization that first emerged in Sindh and Punjab. From these regions, it expanded southward and eastward, covering an area of 1,299,600 square kilometers, which was larger than both Pakistan and the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia.

4. (a) Megasthenes was a Greek ambassador of Seleucus I Nicator in the court of Chandragupta Maurya and the author of the book *Indica*. He described India in his book *Indica*.

5. (c) The correct sequence is:

Appar - 7th century CE
Basavanna - c.1100-1200
Lal Ded - c.1300-1400
Mira Bai - c.1500-1600

6. (d) The Correct matching of List-I (Dynasty) with List-II (Architecture):

- A. Chalukyas - 2. Pattadakal Temples
B. Hoysalas - 3. Kesava Temple, Somnathpur
C. Pandyas - 4. Eastern gopura of Chidambaram Temple

D. Eastern Gangas - 1. Sun Temple, Konark
Hence the correct answer is Code A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1

7. (d) The Rashtrakuta kings were known for their religious tolerance and patronage of various religions, including Shaivism, Vaishnavism, Jainism, and Buddhism. They supported different religious practices and built temples and monasteries for multiple sects. While the Rashtrakuta kings did patronize Sanskrit scholars and supported Sanskrit literature, they also

encouraged scholars from other languages. They had a broader perspective on education and supported the promotion of various languages and literature.

8. (a) The *Arthashastra*, attributed to Kautilya (also known as Chanakya), is indeed the first Indian text to define a State and its components, such as the ruler, ministers, territory, fort, treasury, army, and allies. The main concerns of the *Arthashastra* are practical rather than theoretical. It is a treatise on statecraft, economic policy, and military strategy, providing detailed advice on governance and administration rather than delving into theoretical issues like the origins of the state.

9. (a) "Periplus" is derived from an ancient Greek word that literally means "a sailing-around," so statement 1 is correct. The term "Erythraean" referred to a sea that included the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf, which makes statement 2 incorrect.

10. (a) The Nagara style is predominantly found in the northern part of India, particularly in the areas between the Himalayas and the Vindhyas. This region includes much of present-day northern India, where many temples built in this style can be found. Examples include the temples of Khajuraho, Bhubaneswar, and the Sun Temple at Konark.

The most distinctive feature of the Nagara style of temple architecture is the curvilinear or beehive-shaped shikhara (spire), not a pyramidal one.

11. (c) Minor Rock Edict 1 refers to Ashoka's personal embrace of Buddhism and his efforts to spread its teachings throughout his empire. This edict highlights Ashoka's dedication to the principles of Buddhism and his intention to promote the Dhamma.
12. (b) In Mesopotamian records, the term *Meluha* was used to refer to the Indus Valley (Harappan) civilization. This ancient name is mentioned in various Sumerian and Akkadian texts and is associated with a region known for its trade with Mesopotamia.

13. (a) *Dipavamsa* is not a historical biography. It is an ancient Buddhist chronicle of Sri Lanka that provides an account of the history of Buddhism and the island.

It details the tooth relic and Bodhi Tree's arrival in Sri Lanka.

14. (c) All the mentioned clans—Pratiharas, Chaulukyas (also known as Solankis), Paramaras, and Chahamanas (also known as Chauhanas)—are traditionally considered to be part of the Agnikula Rajputs. The Agnikula theory, mentioned in some Rajput legends, suggests that these clans originated from a sacrificial fire pit (agnikunda) at Mount Abu.

15. (d) Kenoyer suggested that state control might have played a role in the high level of standardization in crafts that were important for maintaining the socio-economic or ritual order. These crafts involved the use of non-local raw materials and advanced technologies.

16. (a) Statement-I: Correct. Major Rock Edict XIII records Ashoka's remorse at the suffering caused by his Kalinga campaign.

Statement-II: Incorrect. Major Rock Edict X condemns the desire for fame and glory, not Ashoka's visit to Lumbini.

Statement-III: Incorrect. Major Rock Edict XII does not refer to the institution of Dhamma Mahamattas but rather focuses on tolerance among different religious sects.

Statement-IV: Correct. Major Rock Edict XII speaks about showing tolerance towards all sects.

Therefore, the correct statements are 1 and 4 only.

17. (c) Rajagriha, Vaishali, and Pataliputra are all significant locations where important Buddhist Councils were held:

1. The First Buddhist Council was held in Rajagriha in 483 BCE.
2. The Second Buddhist Council was held in Vaishali in 383 BCE.
3. The Third Buddhist Council was held in Pataliputra in 250 BCE.

18. (b) Makkhali Gosala (c. 484 B.C.E.) (also known as Maskarin Gosāla or Gosala Mankhaliputta) was an ascetic teacher in ancient India, often identified as the founder of the Ajivika movement. He was a contemporary of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, and of Mahavira, the last and 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.

19. (d) The voluntary union of a maiden and her lover is the sixth form of marriage in *Manusmriti*. This form of marriage is known as "Rakshasa Vivaha", where the groom marries the maiden by force, against her will.

20. (c) 1. The four linguistic families that make up the major Indian languages are:
2. Indian languages, such as Bengali, Punjabi, and Hindi. Indo-Aryan languages
 3. Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam are Dravidian languages.
 4. The Munda languages Santhali, Ho, and Mundari are among the Austroasiatic languages.
 5. Tibetan, Lepcha, and Limbu are Sino-Tibetan languages.
21. (b) Among the given options, Harappan sites specialised centre for making shell object is Balakot. The other site was Nageshwar.
22. (a) Honouring the king was not a part of the Dhamma of king Ashoka. He advocated tolerance towards all religions and sought conquest through Dhamma and not war.
23. (d) Empty seat, Wheel, Tree and Stupa are the symbols that shows the presence of Buddhist. Great thinkers like Buddha, Mahavira, Heraclitus, Zoroaster, Confucius and Lao Tse lived and preached their ideas in this century.
24. (c) The 13th Century text Lekhapaddhati gives us information on Legal document. It belongs to Chalukaya kingdom of Gujarat.
25. (b) Charaka Samhita originated between 3rd to 2nd Century BCE. It is a detailed text on ancient Indian medicine attributed to Charaka and it is also called Charaka-Samhita.
26. (b) Xuanzang wrote the diary called 'Records of the Travels to Middle India. He was also known as Hiuen Tsang. He was a 7th century Chinese Buddhist monk, scholar, traveller and translator.
27. (b) Samudra Gupta court poet and minister Harisena composed the Allahabad pillar inscription or Prayag Prasasti. It is attributed to the 4th century CE Gupta emperor Samudragupta.

28. (a) River Hyphasis was not crossed by Alexander and his army.

29. (a) Fire altars were found inside some of houses in Kalibangan and Lothal. Fire altars are narrow and raised structures made of bricks mainly for ritualistic purposes.

30. (c)

A.	Anta-ma-hamatta	1.	In-charge of frontier areas
B.	Ithijhakha mahamatta	2.	Women's welfare
C.	Dhamma-mahamatta	3.	Spread of Dhamma
D.	Nagalavi-yohalaka-mahamatta	4.	Associated with city administration

31. (d) Huge statues of Kushana emperors have been discovered erected at a sanctuary at Mat, close to Mathura (Uttar Pradesh).

32. (c) The inscription of Rabatak was found in 1993 near an ancient hill in the north part of Baghlan in Afghanistan. The Rabatak inscription includes 23 lines in Bactrian language and a Greco-Bactrian script.

33. (*) King Udayin was the Indian ruler of the Haryanka dynasty who ruled over Magadha from 460 BCE to 440 BCE. He was the son of Ajatashatru and he first established Pataliputra as the capital of Magadha.

34. (a) The Prayaga Prashasti (also known as the Allahabad Pillar Inscription) was composed by Harisena. Harisena was the court poet of Samudragupta while Banabhatta was the court poet of Harshavardhana.

35. (a) All of the statements are correct.

36. (b) **First Statement:** Incorrect. Some urban centers developed as capitals of the mahajanapadas, like Patliputra in Magadha.

Second Statement: Correct. Major towns often developed along key trade routes and communication lines, enhancing their economic and strategic importance.

Third Statement: Correct. These cities became hubs for commerce, culture, and politics, greatly influencing the broader region.

37. (b) **First Statement:** Incorrect. The earliest inscriptions in India, such as those of Ashoka, are primarily in Prakrit, not Sanskrit.

Second Statement: Correct. The Kharosthi script, prevalent in the northwest region of ancient India, was deciphered in part through the examination of coins from the Indo-Greek kings.

Third Statement: Correct. Ancient inscriptions typically focus on significant events and rarely discuss mundane activities like routine agricultural practices.

38. (a) **Muhurta:** Muhurta refers to a specific measure of time in ancient Indian systems. It is typically a unit used to denote a certain period, roughly equivalent to 48 minutes.

Raktika: Raktika is a lesser-known term and in some contexts, it could refer to a measure of weight, particularly in ancient or historical texts.

Angula: Angula is an ancient Indian unit of length. It is equivalent to the width of a finger, approximately three-quarters of an inch.

Pada: In the context of ancient Indian literature, 'Pada' refers to the metre of poetry, describing the structural components of verses in classical Indian texts.

39. (d) The first coins to bear the names and images of rulers were issued by the Indo-Greeks, who established control over the north-western part of the subcontinent c. second century BCE.