

# UPSC CSE 2027 – Today's Learning (Day 2)

**Date:** 03 February 2026 (Tuesday)

**Subject:** GS Paper I (Prelims)

**Topic:** Ancient Indian History – Vedic Age (Early & Later Vedic Period)

## 1. Core Teaching (Exam-Oriented)

The Vedic Age (c. 1500–600 BCE) refers to the period when the Vedas were composed.

It is divided into Early Vedic (Rig Vedic) and Later Vedic periods.

Early Vedic society was tribal and pastoral, with cattle as the main form of wealth.

Political power was limited, and assemblies like Sabha and Samiti existed.

Religion focused on nature worship, with Indra, Agni, and Varuna as major gods.

Later Vedic society saw the emergence of a rigid Varna system and social inequalities.

Kings became powerful, assemblies declined, and large kingdoms emerged.

Agriculture became dominant with the use of iron tools.

Religion became ritualistic, dominated by priests, and philosophical ideas emerged in the Upanishads.

UPSC focuses on changes from Early to Later Vedic period rather than memorizing facts.

## 2. MCQs (30 Questions with Answers & Explanations)

**Q1.** Early Vedic economy was mainly based on?

**Answer:** Pastoralism

**Explanation:** Cattle rearing was the main economic activity.

**Q2.** Which Veda gives information about Early Vedic life?

**Answer:** Rig Veda

**Explanation:** Rig Veda is the oldest source.

**Q3.** Main political unit in Early Vedic period?

**Answer:** Tribe

**Explanation:** Political organization was tribal.

**Q4.** Which assemblies existed in Early Vedic period?

**Answer:** Sabha, Samiti and Vidatha

**Explanation:** They limited king's power.

**Q5.** King in Early Vedic period was?

**Answer:** Elected chief

**Explanation:** Rajan was a tribal leader.

**Q6.** Most important Rig Vedic god?

**Answer:** Indra

**Explanation:** Associated with war and rain.

**Q7.** Which was absent in Early Vedic society?

**Answer:** Rigid caste system

**Explanation:** Varna was fluid.

**Q8.** Later Vedic economy was mainly based on?

**Answer:** Agriculture

**Explanation:** Settled farming dominated.

**Q9.** Which metal became important later?

**Answer:** Iron

**Explanation:** Iron aided agriculture.

**Q10.** Varna system became rigid in?

**Answer:** Later Vedic period

**Explanation:** Social stratification increased.

**Q11.** Which Varna performed rituals?

**Answer:** Brahmin

**Explanation:** They monopolized rituals.

**Q12.** Status of women declined in?

**Answer:** Later Vedic period

**Explanation:** Restrictions increased.

**Q13.** Philosophical texts are?

**Answer:** Upanishads

**Explanation:** They discuss knowledge and reality.

**Q14.** Later Vedic religion emphasized?

**Answer:** Ritualism

**Explanation:** Sacrifices became complex.

**Q15.** Assemblies lost importance in?

**Answer:** Later Vedic period

**Explanation:** Kings became powerful.

**Q16.** Gotra system related to?

**Answer:** Lineage

**Explanation:** Regulated marriage rules.

**Q17.** Common occupation for all varnas?

**Answer:** Agriculture

**Explanation:** Base of economy.

**Q18.** Which Veda deals with rituals?

**Answer:** Yajur Veda

**Explanation:** Contains sacrificial formulas.

**Q19.** Rituals helped kings to?

**Answer:** Assert power

**Explanation:** Legitimized authority.

**Q20.** Gavishti means?

**Answer:** Cattle wealth

**Explanation:** Cow was main wealth.

**Q21.** Which varna paid taxes?

**Answer:** Vaishya

**Explanation:** Supported economy.

**Q22.** UPSC asks Vedic Age mostly as?

**Answer:** Comparative questions

**Explanation:** Early vs Later Vedic.

**Q23.** Which institution weakened?

**Answer:** Assemblies

**Explanation:** Democratic elements declined.

**Q24.** Rituals asserting supremacy?

**Answer:** All of the above

**Explanation:** Ashvamedha etc.

**Q25.** Later Vedic society was?

**Answer:** Agrarian

**Explanation:** Settled agriculture.

**Q26.** Texts explaining rituals?

**Answer:** Brahmanas

**Explanation:** Explain duties and rituals.

**Q27.** Rta means?

**Answer:** Cosmic order

**Explanation:** Natural law.

**Q28.** Private property emerged in?

**Answer:** Later Vedic period

**Explanation:** Land ownership expanded.

**Q29.** Least rights belonged to?

**Answer:** Shudras

**Explanation:** Lowest social status.

**Q30.** Main UPSC focus in Vedic Age?

**Answer:** Social and political change

**Explanation:** Transformation over time.