

**ANCIENT HISTORY**  
**PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTIONS**  
**PRACTICE**

**54.** Where is the famous Gupta period Deogarh Temple situated ?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Chhattisgarh
- (d) Rajasthan

**68.** Which one of the following is *not* the work of Ashvaghosha ?

- (a) *Sariputraprakarana*
- (b) *Buddhacharita*
- (c) *Saundarananda*
- (d) *Manjushrimulakalpa*

**16.** Which one of the following statements about the Shvetambara Sect of Jainism is *not* correct ?

- (a) It refers to monks, who wear white clothes.
- (b) It refers to monks, who migrated to the south of Vindhya in 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE.
- (c) They recognized the existence of canonical texts including the 12 Angas.
- (d) They believed that women can also attain salvation.

**98.** Name the location of the musical inscription containing groups of musical notes arranged for the benefit of his pupils by a king in the seventh or eighth century CE.

- (a) Ennayiram
- (b) Uttaramerur
- (c) Siyyamangalam
- (d) Kudumiyamalai



107. The earliest literary references to iron in the Indian Sub-Continent are found in the :

- (a) Rigveda
- (b) Samaveda
- (c) Yajurveda
- (d) Vinaya Pitaka

To which one of the following schools of philosophy did Kumarila Bhatta and Prabhakara belong ?

- (a) *Lokayata*
- (b) *Madhyamika*
- (c) *Purva-Mimamsa*
- (d) *Uttara-Mimamsa*

**77.** Who among the following were referred to as the 'Theris' in ancient India?

- (a) Respected women
- (b) Elder nuns in Buddhism
- (c) Women denied the Bhikkhuni status
- (d) Women expelled from the Buddhist Sangha



The *Tolkappiyam* is

- (a) A work of grammar.
- (b) A Tamil poem in praise of Rajendra Chola.
- (c) An ancient didactic work in Tamil.
- (d) A drama composed by a Chera King.

**35.** Which one of the following is an ethnic community of Assam?

- (a) Bhil
- (b) Gond
- (c) Ahom
- (d) Adi

**86.** Which of the following dynasties of South India issued their documents first in Prakrit and later in Sanskrit ?

- (a) The Cholas of Tamil Nadu
- (b) The Pandyas of the post-Sangam Age
- (c) The Pallavas of Tondaimandalam
- (d) The Gangas of Kalinganagara

**92.** Who among the following Chola kings encouraged the Sailendra ruler of Sri Vijaya to build a Buddhist Vihara in Negapatnam?

- (a) Parantaka I
- (b) Rajaraja I
- (c) Rajendra I
- (d) Kulottunga I



**71.** The famous Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela mentions that in the eleventh year of his reign, Kharavela destroyed a confederacy of Tamil States, “Tramiradesa Sanghatam”, which had long been a source of danger. How old was this confederacy of Tamil States at that time ?

- (a) 110 years old
- (b) 111 years old
- (c) 112 years old
- (d) 113 years old



**19.** Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. The Bakshali Manuscript written in the Gatha language (a refined version of old Prakrit) using the Sharada script deals with topics such as fractions, square roots, arithmetic and geometric progressions.
2. In the field of geometry, Aryabhatta described the various properties of a circle giving a very accurate value for pi ( $\pi$ ) correct to four decimal places at 3.1416.
3. Sharangadhara Samhita is an important text on political system of ancient India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

18. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Levallois Technique' :

1. It refers to making perforated Harappa pottery.
2. It refers to making prehistoric flake tools.

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

**94.** The royal portraits of Simhavishnu and Mahendravarman are found in which cave temple at Mamallapuram?

- (a) Varaha Cave
- (b) Ramanuja Cave
- (c) Adivaraha Cave
- (d) Trimurti Cave



3. From among the following Mahajanapadas, identify the *gana / sangha* (oligarchy) :

- (a) Magadha
- (b) Vajji
- (c) Avanti
- (d) Kosala

55. Consider the following statements with reference to the Nataraj bronze sculpture of Chola period :

1. Shiva is shown balancing himself on his right leg representing *tirobhava*.
2. Shiva is shown raising his left leg in *bhujangatrasita* stance, representing kicking away the illusion from the devotee's mind.
3. The main right hand holds the *damaru*, Shiva's favourite musical instrument.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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



**15.** Which one of the following is the language of the famous political treatise *Amuktmalyada* ?

- (a) Sanskrit
- (b) Tamil
- (c) Kannada
- (d) Telugu

**98.** Who propounded Kashmir Shaivism?

- (a) Vasugupta
- (b) Abhinavagupta
- (c) Ramakantha
- (d) Ranganathacharya

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অদ্বৈতান লভতে জ্ঞানম্

**82.** Which one of the following was **not** a part of Kautilya's Saptanga Theory of the State ?

- (a) Amatya
- (b) Janapada
- (c) Durga
- (d) Dhamma

## Saptanga Theory

• In his Saptanga Theory, Kautilya enumerates seven prakritis or essential organs of the state.

1. Swamin (King),
2. Amatya (Ministers),
3. Janapad (The people and territory),
4. Durga (The Fort),
5. Kosha, (strong treasury)
6. Danda (Strong army)
7. Mitra (The ally).



8. Who among the following Indian thinkers first spoke of food-for-work programmes to counteract the effects of famines ?

- (a) Kautilya
- (b) Aryabhatta
- (c) Chandragomin
- (d) Prabhakara



**56.** With reference to the Mesolithic art in India, consider the following statements :

1. Alexander Burns discovered the first rock paintings in India at Sohagighat in Uttar Pradesh.
2. Bhimbetka rock paintings were discovered when archaeologist V.S. Wakankar noticed the rocks out of a train window while travelling from Bhopal to Itarsi and got off at the nearest railway station to explore the site.
3. The paintings and engravings do not exist in the same shelter in the rock art of Orissa.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

133. Which of the following is/are NOT historical biography/biographies ?

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

1. Man passed from the food gathering stage to the food producing stage in the

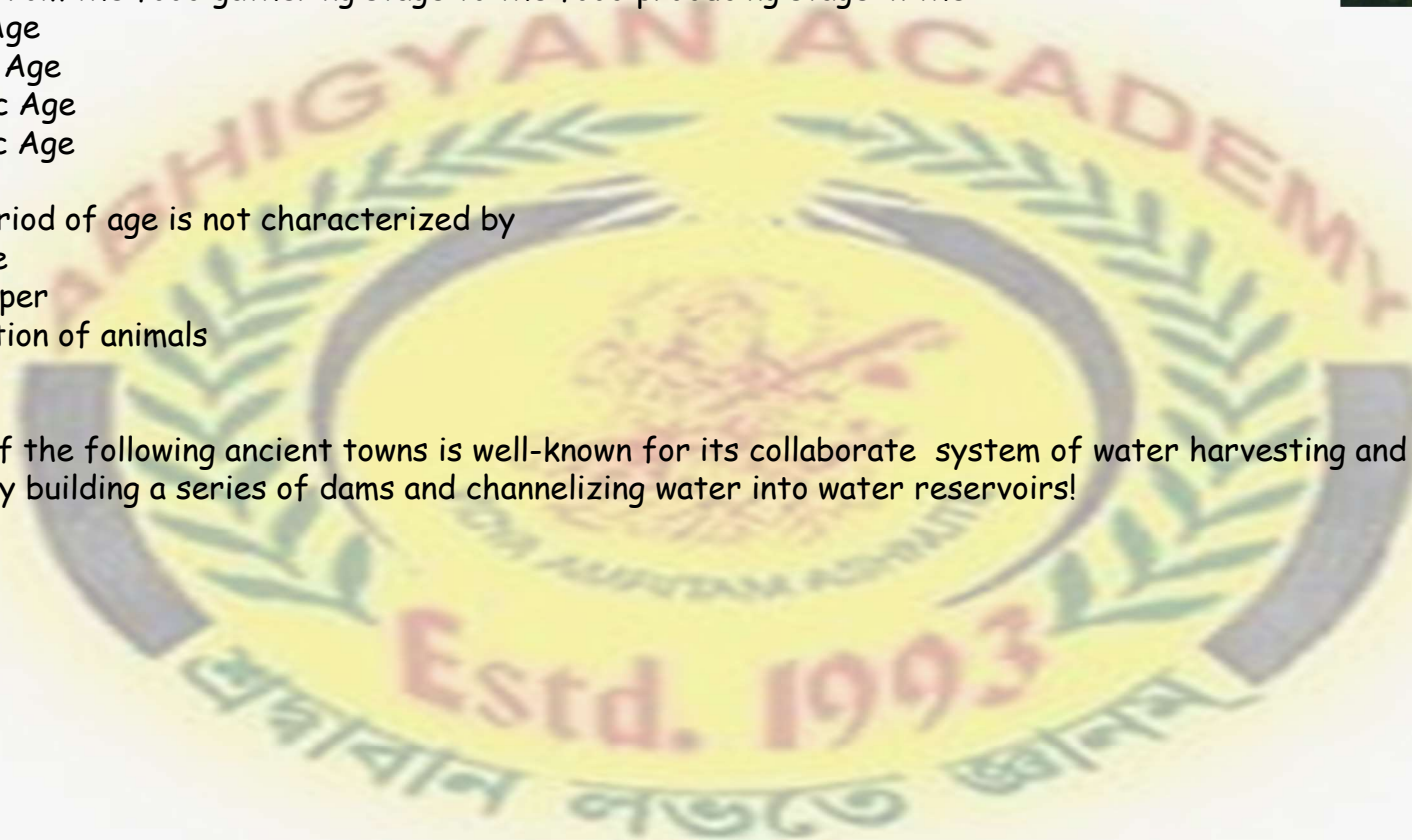
- (a) Neolithic Age
- (b) Mesolithic Age
- (c) Chalcolithic Age
- (d) Palaeolithic Age

2. Neolithic period of age is not characterized by

- (a) Agriculture
- (b) Use of copper
- (c) Domestication of animals
- (d) Fishing

3. Which one of the following ancient towns is well-known for its collaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelizing water into water reservoirs!

- (a) Dholavira
- (b) Kalibangan
- (b) Rakhigarhi
- (c) Ropar



4. Which one of the following archaeologists initially discovered the Mohanjedaro site of valley civilization?

- (a) Daya Ram Sahni
- (b) Sujohu Marshall
- (c) Rakhal Das Banerji
- (d) Sir Mortimer Wheeler

5. Metals known to Indus Valley Civilization were

- (a) Gold, copper, silver but not iron
- (c) Iron, copper, gold but not silver
- (b) Silver, iron, bronze but not gold
- (d) Zinc, silver, iron but not gold.

6. The script of Indus Valley civilisation was

- (a) Persian
- (b) Dravidian
- (c) Sanskrit
- (d) Undeciphered

7. The Indus Valley people had contacts with

- (a) Egyptians
- (b) Sumerians
- (c) Chinese
- (d) Mesopotamians





SITE	DISTRICT	STATE	EXCAVATED BY	COUNTRY	FINDINGS
Kalibangan	Hanumangarh District	Rajasthan	Amlanand Ghose, 1953	India	- Lower fortified town, wooden drainage, copper ox, evidence of earthquake, wooden plough, fire alters and burnt bangles, camel's bones, furrowed land, smaller circular pits
Dholavira	Kutch District	Gujarat	R S Bisht, 1985	India	- Exclusive water management, divided into three parts, giant water reservoir, unique water harnessing system, dams, embankments, stadium, rock-cut architecture
Lothal	Ahmedabad, Bhogva river	Gujarat	R. Rao, 1953	India	- Port town, graveyard, ivory weight balance, copper dog, first manmade port, dockyard, rice husk, fire alters, chess-playing, painted jar, bead making factory
Farmana	Rohtak District	Haryana	Vasant Shinde	India	- Largest burial site of IVC with 65 burials
Surkotada	Kutch District	Gujarat	J P Joshi, 1964	India	- Bones of horses, beads, stone covered beads
Banawali	Fatehabad District	Haryana	R S Bisht, 1974	India	- Beads, barley, oval-shaped settlement, radial streets, toy plough, largest number of barley grains
Daimabad	Ahmednagar District	Maharashtra	BP Bopardikar, 1958	India	- Bronze chariot sculpture, other bronze sculptures
Harappa	Sahiwal District	Punjab	Daya Ram Sahni, 1921	Pakistan	- Indus script pottery, limestone weight, faience slag, statues, copper bullock cart, granaries, coffin burials, terracotta figurines
Mohenjo-Daro	Larkana District	Sindh	R. D Banerjee, 1922	Pakistan	- Great bath, granary, unicorn seals, bronze dancing girl statue, Pashupati Seal, steatite statue, bronze buffalo, woven clothes, cylindrical seals
Rakhigarhi	Hisar District	Haryana	India	India	- Terracotta wheels, toys, figurines, pottery
Sutkagendor	Baluchistan on Dast river	Baluchistan	Stein, 1929	Pakistan	- Trade point between Harappa and Babylon, flint blades, stone vessels, arrowheads, shell beads, pottery, clay bangles



### Homework

8. The religion of early Vedic Aryans was primarily of

- a) Bhakti
- b) image worship and Yajnas
- c) worship of nature and Yajnas
- d) worship of nature and Bhakti

9. Which one of the following dynasties was ruling over North India at the time of Alexander's invasion?

- a) Maurva
- b) Kanva
- c) Nanda
- d) Sunga

10. Who of the following had first deciphered the edicts of Emperor Ashoka?

- (a) Georg Biller
- (b) James Prinsep
- (c) Max Muller
- (d) William Jones

11. The ancient Indian play Mudrarakshasa of Visakhadatta has its subject on

- a) a conflict between Gods and Demons of ancient Hindu lore
- b) a romantic story of an Arvan prince and a tribal woman
- c) the story of power struggle between two Aryan tribes
- d) how Chandragupta Maurva founded its empire

12. Magasthenes visited the court of

- (a) Ashoka
- (c) Chandragupta Maurya
- (b) Harsha
- (d) Vikramaditya

13. Consider the following statements:

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

14. Consider the following statements:

1. The last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha was assassinated by his commander-in-chief, Pushyamitra Sunga.
2. The last Sunga King, Devabhuti was assassinated by his Brahmana minister Vasudeva Kana who usurped the throne.
3. The last ruler of the Kanva dynasty was deposed by Andhras.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

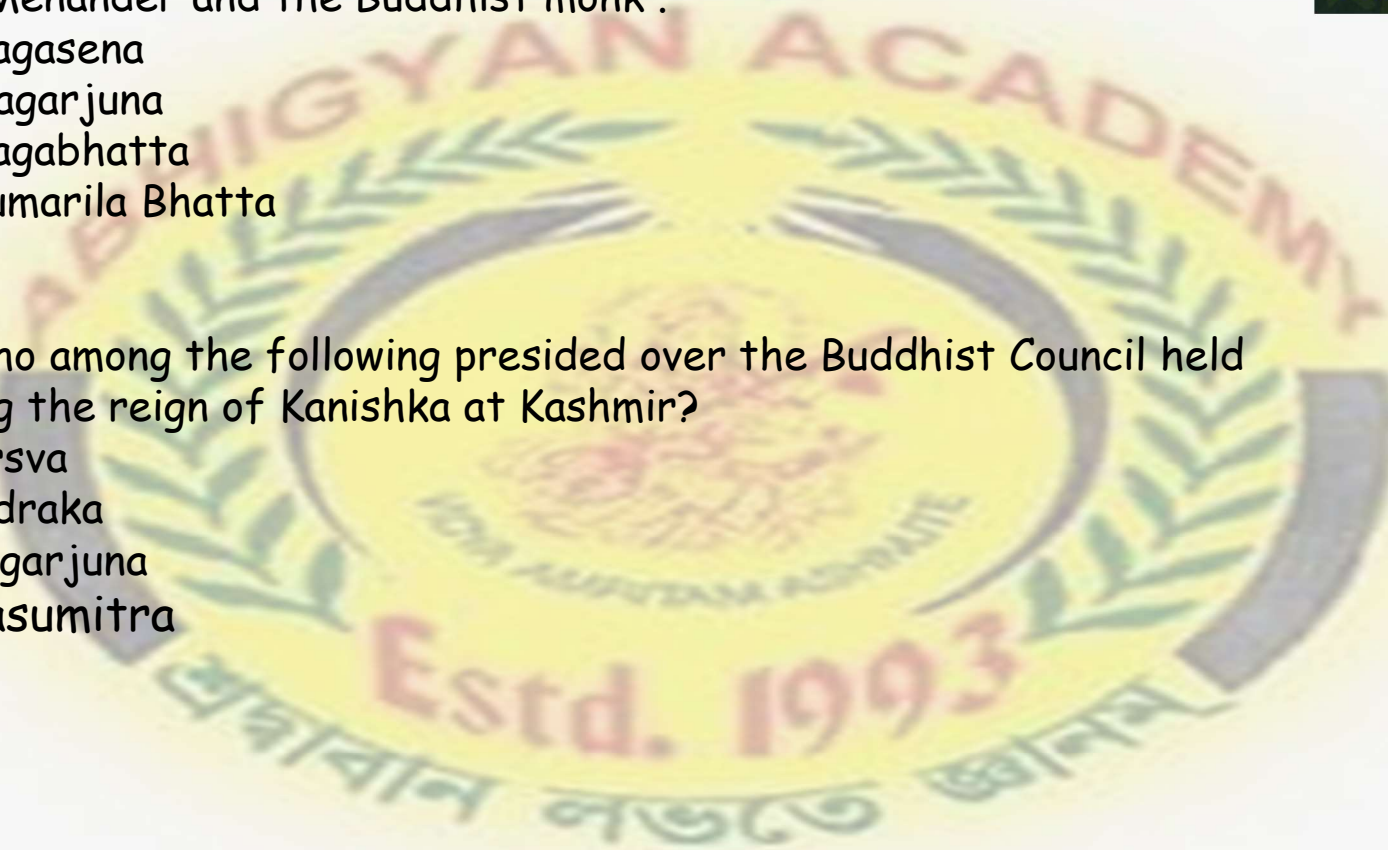
- a) 1 and 2
- b) Only 2
- c) Only 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

15. Milindapanho is in the form of a dialogue between the king Menander and the Buddhist monk .

- (a) Nagasena
- (b) Nagarjuna
- (c) Nagabhatta
- (d) Kumarila Bhatta

16. Who among the following presided over the Buddhist Council held during the reign of Kanishka at Kashmir?

- a) Parsva
- c) Sudraka
- b) Nagarjuna
- d) Vasumitra





17. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Mrichchakatika - Shudraka
2. Buddhacharita - Vasubandhu
3. Mudrarakshasha - Vishakhadatt
4. Harshacharita - Banabhatta

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

Codes:

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

18. Mrichhakatikam an ancient Indian book written by Shudraka deals with

- a) the love affair of rich merchant with the daughter of a courtesan
- b) the victory of Chandragupta II over the Shaka Kshtrapas of western India
- c) the military expeditions and exploits of Samudragupta
- d) the love affair between a Gupta King and a princess of Kamarupa



27. The name by which Asoka is generally referred to in his inscriptions is

- (a) Chakravarti
- (b) Dharmadeva
- (c) Dharmakirti
- (d) Priyadarsi

28. Assertion (A): According to Asoka edicts social harmony among the people was more important than religious devotion

Reason (R): He spread ideas of equity instead of promotion of religion.

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

29. Who of the following had first deciphered the edicts of Emperor Ashoka?

- (a) Georg Biller
- (b) James Prinsep
- (c) Max Muller
- (d) William Jones

30. Which one of the Chola kings conquered Ceylon?

- a) Aditva I
- b) Rajaraja I
- c) Rajendra
- d) Vijavalaya

31. A. Harshavardhana convened the Prayag Assembly.

R: He wanted to popularize only the Mahayana form of Buddhism.

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

32. 1. The Cholas defeated Pandya and Cher rulers and established their domination over peninsular India in the early medieval times.  
2. The Cholas sent an expedition against Shailendra Empire of South East Asia and conquered some of the areas

Which of these statements is/are correct?

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

33. Who among the following laid foundation of Rashtrakuta Empire?

- a) Amoshavarsha
- b) Dantiduga
- c) Dhruv
- d) Krishna I

34. Which of the following statements is not correct about Nalanda University?

- (a) It was an ancient Buddhist learning centre
- (b) A Chinese Hiuen Tsang studied here
- (c) We came to know about it only through the writings of Chinese pilgrims
- (d) It was mainly responsible for spreading Buddhism to China, Japan and Southeast Asia



35. The practice of military governorship was first introduced in India by the
- a) Greeks
  - c) Parthians
  - b) Sakas
  - d) Mughals

