a)

HTTP is a stateless protocol, so in order to retain data for a prolonged server-client-interaction we need a medium to carry that statefull information.

b)

Since cookies belong to the http header section and to avoid any unpredictable behavior it is best to call session_start() before generating any output.

c)

Serialized data is stored in text form and contains key/value pairs that represent states or configurations.

d)

A cookie created in a session that doesn't specify a expire value gets deleted.