**1) What is the Indian Knowledge System and what are the subjects included into it?**

**Indian Knowledge System (IKS)** refers to the traditional and ancient knowledge developed in India over thousands of years. It includes the **cultural, philosophical, spiritual, and scientific wisdom** of Indian civilization.

IKS is deeply rooted in **Indian texts, practices, traditions, and values** that shaped Indian society.

**Main Subjects in IKS:**

1. **Vedas and Vedangas** – Knowledge of language, rituals, and philosophy.
2. **Ayurveda** – Ancient Indian medical science.
3. **Mathematics and Astronomy** – Concepts like zero, decimal, planetary motion.
4. **Yoga and Meditation** – Physical and mental well-being.
5. **Art, Architecture & Music** – Classical dances, temple architecture, instruments.
6. **Ethics and Dharma** – Moral values and duties.
7. **Education system (Gurukul tradition)** – Character building and learning.

IKS gives us a unique Indian way of looking at life, nature, and science which is still relevant today.

**2) Describe about the Ancient and Classic India**

**Ancient India** refers to the early periods of Indian civilization, starting from the **Indus Valley Civilization** (~2500 BCE) to around **500 CE**. This era saw the rise of:

* Harappan cities (urban planning)
* Vedic culture
* Rise of Buddhism and Jainism
* Maurya and Gupta empires

**Classical India** is generally considered the time from **500 CE to 1200 CE**, known for **cultural, economic, and scientific development**. The **Gupta Period** and the **early Chola rule** were part of this era.

**Key features of Ancient and Classical India:**

* Rich literature (Ramayana, Mahabharata)
* Birth of religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism)
* Strong trade and economy
* Art and sculpture advancements
* Great kings like Ashoka, Chandragupta, Harsha

**3) Describe about Indus Valley Civilization**

The **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)** was one of the **world’s oldest urban civilizations**, around **2500 BCE to 1900 BCE**, located in present-day **Pakistan and northwest India**.

**Key Features:**

* **Well-planned cities** like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro.
* **Drainage system** and roads – very advanced.
* Use of **standardized bricks** and weights.
* **Granaries, seals, toys**, and ornaments found.
* Economy based on **agriculture and trade**.
* **No evidence of temples**, suggesting different religious practices.
* **Script not fully deciphered** yet.

It showed how advanced early Indians were in planning, hygiene, and trade.

**4) Why was the time period of Classical India known as the Golden Age?**

The time of **Gupta Empire (around 320–550 CE)** is called the **Golden Age of India** because there was **peace, prosperity, and a rise in art, science, and culture**.

**Reasons:**

* Scientific achievements (zero, decimal system)
* Literary works like **Kalidasa’s plays**
* Development in **art, architecture, sculpture**
* Flourishing of **Buddhism and Hinduism**
* Good **education system** like Nalanda University
* Strong **administration and economy**

Everything from culture to knowledge reached its peak during this time, hence it's called the **Golden Age**.

**5) Name two major trade products that were exported**

Two important trade products exported from ancient and classical India were:

1. **Spices** – Like black pepper, cardamom, turmeric, which were highly valuable in foreign lands.
2. **Textiles** – Fine Indian cotton and silk were in great demand, especially in Rome and Southeast Asia.

India had active sea and land trade routes and was known as a rich trading nation.

**6) In what small way do you think the ancient Indian concept of Dharma might still influence the modern day of Indian practices?**

**Dharma** means **duty, righteousness, and ethical living**.

Even today, Dharma influences:

* **Respect for elders and teachers**
* Doing **one's job sincerely**
* Following **truth and honesty**
* Helping others, social responsibility
* Living in **harmony with nature**

For example, Indian laws and Constitution talk about **fundamental duties**, which come from the concept of Dharma.

**7) What trade products were exported?**

India exported many goods, some of the important ones are:

1. **Spices** – Pepper, cinnamon, turmeric.
2. **Textiles** – Cotton, silk fabrics.
3. **Precious stones** – Diamonds, pearls.
4. **Ivory and sandalwood**
5. **Metals and tools**
6. **Handicrafts and pottery**

These items were sent to **Rome, China, Arabia, and Southeast Asia**, making India a major part of ancient trade networks.

**8) List and briefly explain three significant scientific or technological innovations from Classical India**

1. **Zero and Decimal System (Maths):**
   * Ancient Indian mathematicians like **Aryabhata** and **Brahmagupta** introduced the **concept of zero**, place value system, and decimals – now used worldwide.
2. **Ayurveda (Medicine):**
   * Developed by **Charaka** and **Sushruta**.
   * Explained human anatomy, surgeries (like plastic surgery), and herbal medicine.
3. **Astronomy:**
   * Aryabhata said **Earth rotates on its axis** and calculated **solar eclipses** and planet movements.
   * Varahamihira wrote about stars, seasons, and astrology.

These achievements show India’s deep contribution to global science.

**9) From a modern business perspective, what strategic lessons can be drawn from Chola dynasty supremacy in Indian Ocean region trade?**

The **Chola Dynasty (9th to 13th century CE)** controlled major sea trade routes in the Indian Ocean.

**Strategic Business Lessons:**

1. **Control Trade Routes:**
   * Like how the Cholas dominated sea routes, modern businesses must secure their **supply chains and logistics**.
2. **Expand Market Reach:**
   * Cholas traded with **Southeast Asia, China, and Arabia**.
   * Companies today must **go global** and explore **international markets**.
3. **Strong Naval Power = Business Power:**
   * Cholas built a powerful **navy to protect trade**.
   * In modern terms, invest in **infrastructure, digital security, and partnerships**.
4. **Cultural Diplomacy:**
   * Cholas spread **Indian culture** with trade.
   * Today, **brand image and soft power** help businesses grow globally.