



Fact Sheet Prep Series Part - 3

ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATION

HISTORY

1 Ans. c

Explan - The New Stone Age (Neolithic) or the 'food-producing' stage was the time when man completely changed his way of life. Before this, man lived by hunting animals and collecting wild plants. In the new way of life, he began to domesticate animals and cultivate plants. The dog, goat and sheep were probably the first of the animals to be domesticated. Among plants, wheat and barley were the earliest cereals grown.

Cutting down trees with stone axes was a tiring job. But fortunately another discovery made it easier to fell trees. This was the discovery of metals, copper to begin with. Later, copper was mixed with other metals such as tin or even, zinc and lead to make a new metal or alloy, called bronze.

2. Ans. c

Explan - The earliest city to be discovered in India was Harappa in Punjab (Presently in Pakistan). Further down in the Indus Valley another ancient city was excavated and this was Mohenjodaro in Sind. The archaeologists called the civilization of these ancient cities the Indus Valley Civilization, because both these cities and other sites sharing the same culture were found in the Indus valley.

One of these cities was found at Rupar near Chandigarh, another at Lothal near Ahmadabad, a third at Kalibangan in Rajasthan and another at Kot Diji in Sind. It is also called the Indus Civilization because it spread over areas beyond the Indus valley.

But for the last forty years, archaeologists have been digging in other parts of northern and western India and have found more cities which resemble those of the Indus valley. Therefore the Indus Valley Civilization is now also called the Harappa culture since the pattern of living in these cities resembles that of Harappa.

The Harappa culture was spread over the whole of Sind, Baluchistan, almost the whole of the Punjab (east and west), Haryana, Western UP, Jammu, northern Rajasthan, Gujarat and northern Maharashtra.

3. Ans. b

Extra Information - Alexander: After Chandragupta had established his power in Magadha; he turned his attention northwards to the Punjab. The Punjab had been invaded by the Greek king Alexander in 326 B.C.

Alexander had invaded India because some of the northern areas were included in the great Persian empire of the Achaemenid rulers. Alexander had overthrown the Persian emperor and conquered his empire. But Alexander himself died in 323 B.C. and the Punjab was now being ruled by Greek governors left behind by him.

Alexander III of Macedon commonly known as Alexander the Great was a king (basileus) of the Ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon[a] and a member of the Argead dynasty. Alexander succeeded his father, Philip II, to the throne at the age of twenty. He spent most of his ruling years on an unprecedented military campaign through Asia and northeast Africa, and by the age of thirty he had created one of the largest empires of the



ancient world, stretching from Greece to north-western India. He was undefeated in battle and is widely considered one of history's most successful military commanders.

4. Ans. a

Explan - The most barbarous practice which was prevalent among some so called upper caste Hindus was the burning of the widow on the funeral pyre of her husband. This practice is known as Satidaha or simply Sati. In Bengal Presidency alone, 8134 cases of Sati were recorded from 1815 to 1828.

The most significant-social legislation of the British government in India was the banning of this barbarous practice in 1829. This happened when William Bentinck was the Governor-General. The powerful campaign launched by Raja Rammohun Roy helped in banning this practice.

Through the efforts of another Indian reformer, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, the government passed the Widow Remarriage Act in 1856. This Act made it lawful for a Hindu widow to marry again.

There had been a regular trade of slaves in India, though not on a large scale. Because of their poverty, people were forced to sell their children. Slaves were used mostly for domestic work. Sometimes they were exported to other British colonies. A law was passed in 1843 which made slavery illegal in India.

These measures of social reform, though important, affected a very small section of the Indian population. The government (primarily concerned with protecting and promoting British interests, had little enthusiasm for far reaching social reforms.

5. Ans. d

Extra Information - A few new types of schools giving instruction in English language and other branches of western learning had started functioning first in the Madras region and then in Bengal and Bombay. These were mostly run by Christian missionaries.

The first educational institutions supported by the government were the Calcutta Madras and Banaras Sanskrit College established in 1781 and 1791 respectively.

The Fort William College was started in Calcutta in 1801 and a handful of Indian scholars under a British principal were engaged there to acquaint the British civilians with the languages, history, law and customs of India. The first primer in Bengali, an Urdu dictionary and a grammar of Hindi were produced by these scholars.

The first step towards the educational development of India by the British rulers was taken after the Charter

Act of 1813. This Act sanctioned one lakh of rupees for purposes of education in India. It, however, took the company, another twenty years to have an educational policy for India.

6. Ans. c

Related Information - There were scores of revolts between 1765 and 1856 in different parts of the country. Many of these were revolts by peasants and tribal people. There were others led by dispossessed rulers and Zamindars and chiefs. There were also mutinies by sepoys of the Company's army. Many of these revolts were joined by the disbanded soldiers of the armies of former rulers.

The first major revolt broke out soon after the British conquest of Bengal. It was led by Sanyasis and Fakirs and spread to many areas of eastern India. Most of these rebels were peasants who formed their armies, sometimes 50,000 strong, and went around as pilgrims. The Company's troops sent to suppress them met with defeat. It took the British about thirty years to put an end to this revolt.

There were many other peasant revolts in different parts of the country. Some of these revolts were led by leaders of religious reform movements.

There were a number of tribal revolts during this period. Some of the powerful ones among these were the revolts of the Bhils in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, Kols in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Gonds and Khonds in Orissa, Kolis in Maharashtra, Mers in Rajasthan, and Santhals in Bengal and Bihar.

7. Ans. c

Explan - In 1867, the Prarthana Samaj of Bombay was founded. Two of its chief architects were Mahadev Govind Ranade and Ramakrishna Bhandarkar.

The leaders of the Prarthana Samaj were influenced by the Brahmo Samaj. They condemned the caste system and the practice of untouchability. They worked for improving the status of women and advocated widow remarriage.

Ranade believed that without social reforms, it was not possible to achieve any progress in the political and economic fields. He was a great advocate of Hindu-Muslim unity and declared that in this vast country no progress is possible unless both Hindus and Mohammedans join hands together.

Two other great reformers in western India were Gopal Hari Deshmukh Lokahitwadi and Jotirao Govindrao Phule, popularly known as Jotiba.

8. Ans. d



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Explan - South of the Deccan plateau and south of the Satavahana kingdom, three kingdoms arose. These were the Cholas (whose centre was in the area of Tanjore, south of Chennai), the Pandyas (whose centre was at Madurai), and the Keralas or Cheras (along the Malabar Coast, now part of Kerala).

The southeast region came to be the land of the Tamils, because Tamil was the language spoken there.

Our knowledge of these three South Indian kingdoms, the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas, is based on literature called the 'Sangam literature'.

9. Ans. b

Explan - Indian leaders themselves played a leading role in the spread of education. During the early years of 20th century, leaders of the freedom movement formed a National Council of Education as a revolt against British control over education. They set up national schools and a National College. Later, they established Vidyapeeths at Banaras and Ahmadabad and Jamia Millia Islamia at Aligarh (later shifted to Delhi). They also tried to give a new shape to education.

Rabindra Nath Tagore established the Vishva-Bharati at Santiniketan. Schools were started following the Nai Talim scheme of Gandhiji which aimed at making students self-reliant. Dr. Zakir Husain, who became the third President of the Republic of India, played a leading role in developing this new system of education.

10. Ans. a

Explan - Queen Victoria issued a Proclamation which was read out by Governor-General Canning at a Durbar held at Allahabad on 1 November 1858. The Proclamation promised to respect the rights of the Indian princes and disclaimed any intention of extending British conquests in India.

The Proclamation further declared that all will be qualified to enter the administrative services on the basis of their education and ability irrespective of race and creed.

Thus, while the Proclamation promised to the princes that they would be safe, it also promised the middle classes opportunities for advancement. However, it soon became evident that the promise of equality of opportunity to the new social groups was not meant to be implemented. In fact, many British administrators, including some Viceroys, thought that it mistook to make this promise. The promise with regard to the respect for ancient customs of India took the form of a policy to preserve social evils.

11. Ans. a

Explan - The Buddha did not favour the Vedic sacrifices and the many rituals which people had to perform. He objected to the importance given to the varnas because those who belonged to the lower varnas, the shudras and others, were ill-treated by the upper varnas.

The Buddha was born as prince Siddhartha in the Shakya tribe, some years after the birth of Mahavira. He was born in the Lumbini near the city of Kapilavastu (on the borders of Nepal and eastern Uttar Pradesh). He taught that the world is full of suffering and this is due to desire for worldly things. A man should free himself from desire by following the Eight fold Path-eight kinds of action and thought which would lead to virtuous living and which he described as leading a balanced life without wanting too much-of anything.

12. Ans. d

Explan - Some of the earliest newspapers in India were started by the British, mainly for the British. During the course of the 19th century and later, however, a powerful Indian press grew, both in English and Indian languages. With the growth of political consciousness and the beginning of political activities by Indians in the later part of the 19th century, there was a great increase in the number of Indian newspapers and journals.

While some of the English newspapers which were owned by the British were supporters of the British rule, most of the others, both in English and Indian languages, voiced the aspirations of the Indian people. They voiced the grievances of the Indian people and gave expression to their social, economic and political demands. They made people aware of the happenings in different parts of the country as well as of the world.

During the struggle for freedom, they became a powerful instrument for mobilizing the people. Many of these newspapers suffered persecution at the hands of the British rulers for their support to the nationalist movement. Sometimes the newspapers were closed down by the British and their editors jailed.

Some of the earliest newspapers were The Hindu, The Indian Mirror, The Tribune, Amrtia Bazar Patrika, The Kesari, The Mahratta, The Swadeshmitran, The Prabhakarand, and The Indu-Prakash.

13. Ans. b

Explan - In 1813 the Company lost its monopoly of trade in India which was now open to all British people. By the Charter Act of 1833 the Company lost its monopoly of trade with China which it had enjoyed even after 1813. The Company was also asked to wind up its commercial activities in India. Thus, the commercial



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functions of the British Indian administration were done away with.

The British government wanted to tighten their control over India and for this they sought to centralize British India's administrative structure. The Charter Act of 1833 gave the Governor-General in-Council (that is the Governor-General along with the members of his Council) full authority over the entire civil and military affairs of the British territories in India.

This centralized system of administration established the complete domination of the Governor-General-in-Council over the entire British Indian administration. This remained so as one of the major features of the British rule in India till 1947 when India became free.

In this system of administration, the people of the country had a very minor role. A section of the British administrators admitted that "there is perhaps no example of any conquest in which the natives have been so completely excluded from all share of the Government of their country as in British India".

The Charter Act of 1833 however laid down that no Indian would be debarred from holding any kind of employment under the Company. But very little of this policy was put into practice.

This centralized system of administration established the complete domination of the Governor-General-in-Council over the entire British Indian administration.

14. Ans. c

Extra Information - Around the middle of the 19th century, political associations of Indians began to be formed. They were formed in the Presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.

In 1851, the British Indian Association was formed in Calcutta. It demanded, among other things, a share for Indians in the administration of the country. The Bombay Association was set up in 1852 to make representations to the British authorities in India and Britain to promote the welfare of the Indian people.

The Madras Native Association, formed in 1852, also had similar objectives. The members of all these associations mostly came from the upper sections of Indian society. Their activities were of limited character - sending petitions to the government and to British Parliament requesting them to introduce reforms in administration, associate Indians in the governance of the country, reduce taxes and put an end to the policy of discrimination against Indians.

Later, a number of other organizations were formed which were more representative of the people than the

ones mentioned above. These included the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, which was formed in 1870, the Indian Association, formed in 1876, the Madras Mahajana Sabha, formed in 1884 and the Bombay Presidency Association, formed in 1885.

15. Ans. b

Explan - The Kushanas, whose original home was in Chinese Turkistan, arrived in Afghanistan in the first century A.D. and displaced the Indo-Greeks, the Shakas and the Parthians, and then established themselves at Taxila and Peshawar.

The Kushanas came into conflict with the Chinese armies of the Hun Empire in Central Asia. There is a statue of Kanishka at Mathura which shows him as a well-built man. He was a supporter of Buddhism. He gave money for building Buddhist monasteries. He also took an interest in the religious debates which went on at the time. It was during his reign that the Fourth Buddhist Council was held. As in the earlier Councils, many decisions were taken regarding the teachings of the Buddha.

16. Ans. b

Explan - Ashoka was the most famous of the Mauryan kings, and one of the greatest rulers India has ever had. He decided to conquer Kalinga and include it within his empire.

A campaign was started against the Kalingans who were defeated. But both the armies suffered heavy losses. Ashoka was saddened by the wounded and the dying soldiers and the un-happiness that war had caused to the women and children. He then decided that he would not fight any more wars. Instead he would try and persuade people to live in peace.

For the next thirty years of his rule there were no more wars. Kalinga was now a part of the Mauryan Empire. For the first time in Indian history, almost the whole sub-continent except the extreme south was under a single ruler.

17. Ans. c

Explan - In the war of succession that followed the death of Aurangzeb, Bahadur Shah was victorious. During his short reign, 1707-1712, Bahadur Shah tried to restore the goodwill of the Mughal Empire by conciliating the Marathas and the Rajputs. He released Shahu, the grandson of Shivaji, who had been imprisoned by Aurangzeb.

Jahandar Shah came to the throne in 1712, with the help of Zulfiqar Khan, who was Aurangzeb's senior most general. The Jizya was abolished during his reign.

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Jahandar Shah was overthrown within a little over a year after coming to the throne. Farrukhsiyar became the Emperor in 1713. The most powerful nobles in this period were Abdullah Khan and Husain Ali Khan, popularly known as the Saiyid brothers. When the Emperor tried to suppress their power, he was put to death in 1719.

The Saiyids raised to the throne, successively two cousins of Farrukhsiyar and then another cousin Mohammad Shah, who became the Emperor in 1720. However, soon after that, the Saiyid brothers were overthrown by a group of nobles led by Chin Qilich Khan who had been a famous general of Aurangzeb. Mohammad Shah reigned for 29 years till 1748. However, the empire had already started breaking up.

18. Ans. d

Explan - Reform movements aiming at eradication of social evils, some of which had become associated with religious practices, emancipation of women and spread of modern education spread to other communities.

Dadabhai Naoroji (1825-1917) and Naoroji Furdoonji (1817-1885) were among the pioneers of religious and social reform in the Parsi community. Together, they started a journal, Rast Goftar, for the purpose and played an important role in the spread of education, particularly among girls. Another important social reformer in the Parsi community was Sorabji Bengali.

19. Ans. a

Explan - Ashoka was a Buddhist and wanted to make Buddhism popular. But more than that he believed in high ideals, which could lead men to be peaceful and virtuous. This he called dhamma (which is the Prakrit form of the Sanskrit word dharma) and he explained his dhamma in the edicts.

The edicts were written in various scripts. The majority were in Brahmi which was used in many parts of the country. The language was generally Prakrit. This was spoken by the common people, whereas Sanskrit was spoken by the educated upper castes.

Some of his edicts were also composed in Greek and inscribed in Afghanistan. Because Ashoka wanted to explain his ideas to the ordinary people, he used a language which they would understand.

The edicts of Ashoka were inscribed on rocks and on tall pillars made of sandstone. The pillars were so beautifully polished that they shone like mirrors. On the top of each pillar was carved an animal figure -an elephant, or a bull, or a lion.

20. Ans. c

Explan - The law makers laid down rules for the guidance of the life of the higher classes. According to these rules, life was divided into four stages or ashramas. The first stage, that of brahmacharin was devoted to education; the second, grihastha, to being a householder and raising a family; the third, vanaprastha, to living in the forests for meditation; and the last stage, sanyasin, to becoming an ascetic and a preacher. This was the ideal, but one does not know how many people followed it.

21. Ans. c

Explan - Another powerful revolt during the British period was that of the Wahabis, the followers of a Muslim sect founded by Sayyid Ahmad Bareilvi. The Wahabis had a large following among the peasants and craftsmen of Bengal and Bihar. They urged the people to join in a holy war to overthrow the British rule. The anti-British activities of the Wahabis continued from 1830 till after the revolt of 1857.

These and many other anti-British revolts took place in different parts of India during the hundred years since the battle of Plassey. Most of these revolts were, however, localized occurrences. Even though it took the British a long time to suppress some of them, they did not pose a serious danger to the British rule in India. The discontent against the British rule, however, continued to grow and culminated in the mighty revolt of 1857.

22. Ans. a

Explan - Illiteracy remained one of the most important problems of India under the British rule. One of India's foremost nationalist leaders, G.K. Gokhale, said in 1903, "It is obvious that an illiterate and ignorant nation can never make any solid progress and must fall back in the race of life".

To remove illiteracy from India he and others repeatedly made the demand for introducing free and compulsory education for children from the age of six to 10 years. But little was done by the government in this regard. In 1947, when India became independent, only 24 per cent of the males and seven per cent of the females in India were literate.

23. Ans. c

Explan - The English had formed a trading company in 1600 and had been making many attempts to get trading rights in India. They sent an ambassador to Jahangir's court only for this reason and finally succeeded.

The English had factories at Masulipatnam, Surat, Fort St. George and Fort William. The last two places were

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to become famous in later years as Madras and Calcutta. They also acquired Bombay as part of the dowry which the Portuguese princess brought when she married the English king, Charles II. All these places were well-located from the point of view of trade and shipping.

The English gradually succeeded in ousting the Dutch and the Portuguese from the Indian trade. The Portuguese had anyway become unpopular in India. Besides, English sea-power was now greater than that of the Portuguese and the Dutch and this helped the English to capture the Indian trade. There had been two English companies trading in India and this had created some trouble. In 1703 the two were united and were given the name of 'The United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.'

But the English had also to face further competition. In 1664 the French had also formed a company to trade in India. The French established themselves at a place south of Madras which they called Pondicherry.

24. Ans. b

Explan - We know a great deal about Samudragupta because of an inscription, engraved on a pillar at Allahabad, which describes his achievements. The inscription was composed by a poet at the court of Samudragupta. The pillar is historically very interesting. It is located in the fort at Allahabad. It was originally a pillar on which emperor Ashoka had an edict inscribed. Later the inscription concerning Samudragupta was also inscribed on it. Still later, there is a brief inscription of the Mughal period.

Chandra-gupta II was the son of Samudragupta. He is also known as Vikramaditya. He conducted a victorious campaign in western India against the Shakas who had been troubling the Guptas.

He also maintained friendly relations with the king of the Deccan and the south by marriage alliances, the most important of which was with the Vakataka kingdom of the Deccan.

He is best remembered for his patronage of learning and the arts. Philosophers, poets and writers in those days were maintained by the king if their work pleased him. Chandragupta II took pride in having at his court some of the wisest and most learned men of the country.

25. Ans. a

Explan - It was Bagha Jatin (Jatin Mukherjee) who was trying to organise a revolt with the help of arms from Germany was killed in an encounter.

The Ghadar Party also sent people to organize, uprisings in India. Most of them were however, arrested and some executed. Among those executed was the 19-year old Kartar Singh Sarabha.

A group of revolutionaries, in Kabul proclaimed a Provisional Government of Free India with Raja Mahendra Pratap as President and Barkatulla as Prime Minister. Although the revolutionaries did not succeed in their aims, their patriotism, determination and self-sacrifice were a source of inspiration to the Indian people.

26. Ans. c

Explan - The Aryans also mixed with the local people and married into local families. The word 'Arya' came to refer to any person who was respected. The Aryans, when they settled in various parts of north India, were hostile to the indigenous people whom they referred to as 'Dasas' and 'Dasyus'.

The Dasas and Dasyus did not worship the same gods as the Aryans and spoke a language which was different from Vedic Sanskrit. Some Dasa chiefs were treated with great respect, but many of the Dasa people were enslaved so that eventually the word 'dasa' came to mean slave.

The Aryans were also divided amongst themselves into three groups. The most powerful people were the king and his warriors who were called Kshatriyas. Equally important were the priests or Brahmans; and then came the craftsmen and cultivators or Vaishyas. There was in addition a fourth group called the shudras. This consisted of Dasyus and those Aryans who were looked down upon.

Thus Aryan society gradually came to be divided into four groups or varnas - kshatriyas, brahmanas, vaishyas and shudras-and each group had separate occupations and activities in society.

27. Ans. b

Explan - Of all the Mughal emperors, Jahangir was the one who was most fond of paintings. He encouraged his artists to take an interest in other schools of painting as well. He was curious about the techniques of European painting when some of these were shown to him by Thomas Roe. A big change took place when Aurangzeb became emperor. He disapproved of painting and would not let the artists work at the court. So they went away to the various provincial capitals where the local governors employed them.

Some went to the small states of the Punjab and Rajasthan such as Kangra, Guler and Basholi in the Punjab hills and to Mewar, Bikaner, Bundi, Kotah and Kishangarli, etc. in Rajasthan.

Another school of painting which flourished at this time was the Deccan school which was encouraged by the Bijapuri kings. In many of these places the interest in painting resulted in some of the finest paintings of the eighteenth century.

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28. Ans. c

Explan - Gandhiji returned to India in 1915 and plunged himself in the struggle against oppression. One of his first struggles was launched in Champaran in Bihar. He took up the cause of the poor peasants against the excesses of the indigo planters in Champaran.

In 1917, he went to Champaran and defied the government order asking him to leave the area. The government was forced to inquire into the injustices committed by the Indigo planters and to put an end to them.

Later, in 1918, he led the textile workers of Ahmadabad who were demanding a rise in their wages, and the peasants of Kaira (Kheda) in Gujarat, who, due to crop failure, wanted the collection of revenue to be suspended.

29. Ans. d

Extra Information - Satavahana family was also known as the Andhras. One of their great rulers was Satakarni who was a conqueror and was described as the Lord of the West. He fought against the king of Kalinga. Sometime after the reign of Satakarni, the Shakas, who were ruling in Saurashtra, attacked the Satavahanas and pushed them out of Nasik and into Andhra.

But the Satavahanas reorganized their armies and attacked the Shakas, succeeding finally in regaining the western Deccan. This was done by King Gautamiputra Satakarni.

Gautamiputra made the Satavahana kingdom powerful in the Deccan. But the Shakas never missed an opportunity to attack the Satavahanas, and this continued into the reign of Gautamiputra's son Vasishthi-putra, until finally Vasishthiputra married the daughter of the Shaka ruler. Then there was peace for some time between the Shakas and the Satavahanas.

Towards the end of the second century A. D., the Shakas became weaker than before and this gave the Satavahanas a chance to extend their kingdom. They conquered Kathiawar in the north and occupied the Krishna delta in the south. But Satavahana power did not last for long after this, and in the third century A. D. it declined.

30. Ans. d

Extra Information - During the time of the festivals it became the meeting place of all the people in the countryside around. Those who were wealthy gave large donations of money and offerings to the temples. The walls were covered with sculpture and with scenes depicting both gods and men. The images in stone and bronze were made with great care and devotion. On festive days they were covered with rich silks and golden ornaments and taken out in procession in large wooden carriages. The temple was not only a beautiful building but the store-house of great riches as well. It was here that the village assembly would hold its meetings

and the business discussed was sometimes recorded on the walls of the temple.

The priests of the temple were also the local teachers as there was no separate school. The school was held in the temple courtyard. The young students, most of whom were brahmins, learnt their lessons in two languages.

31. Ans. d

Extra Information - The Maratha state was governed by the king who was advised and assisted by a council of eight ministers-the ashtapradhan. The revenue of the state came mainly from the land. The state was entitled to two-fifths of the produce but we do not know how much was actually collected from the peasants. This was the assessment on those peasants and cultivators who were living in the Maratha kingdom.

From those living outside the Maratha kingdom (and these were areas mainly under the control of the Mughals or the Deccan kingdoms), the Maratha government levied two taxes. One was called chauth and this was one quarter of the total revenue paid to the Mughal government or the Deccan kingdoms. This was a tax which the Maratha government took in return for promising not to plunder and raid their territory. The other tax was the sardeshmukhi which was an additional one-tenth.

Therefore the peasant who was living outside the Maratha kingdom had to bear an additional burden. All this money was used for building up the Maratha state. This also shows the weakness of the Mughal government in the Deccan.

32. Ans. d

Extra Information - Apart from agriculture, cattle-rearing, fishing, metal-work, carpentry and tanning were common occupations in the villages during vedic ages. Metalworkers now had a new metal to work with- iron. The use of iron made life easier. Iron, being a hard, tough metal, was better suited than copper or bronze for making tools and weapons.

The use of iron goes back in India to a little before 1000 B.C. It was first used in weapons such as arrow-heads, spear heads, swords and knives. Later people began to make iron axe-heads which were very efficient for clearing heavy forests in the Ganga valley. Eventually the iron tip was added to the ploughshare. This improved agriculture in the heavy soil of the same area.

33. Ans. c

Extra Information - Ashoka's ideas on government are also found in his edicts. He believed that a king should treat his subjects as a father treats his children. He often writes in his edicts, "All men are my children." In the same way as a father cares for his children and looks after them, a king must care for his subjects.



Ashoka ruled from the capital city of Pataliputra (Patna). He had a council of ministers to advise him and a number of officers who carried out his orders.

The empire was divided into four big provinces, and each province was ruled by a viceroy who was under the king. The provinces appear to have been divided into districts which were made up of groups of villages. There were various officers who looked after the administration in the districts. Some used to tour the districts and see that everything was in order. Others collected taxes from the districts.

Some worked as judges and cases were brought to them for judgement. Ashoka wanted them to be as lenient as possible in their judgements and in the punishments which they gave. Yet others used to keep the records of the amount collected in taxes and assist the senior officers in their work.

Every village had its own group of officers who kept a record of the people and the animals in the village and collected taxes to take to the superior officers. The work of administration was divided into a number of departments each of which had its own chief or superintendent at Pataliputra. Thus the king was always informed of what was happening in every part of the empire.

34. Ans. a

Explan - The rank was held only by the officer during his lifetime. His son could not inherit the rank if he wished to join the emperor's service. He would have to be appointed to his own rank. Thus the emperor maintained strict control over his officers.

The troops maintained by the mansabdar could be used by the emperor whenever he wished. But Akbar had a select body directly under his control and a strong artillery arm so there was little danger of the mansabdars using their troops against the emperor.

The emperor ruled with the help of various officers. The most important of these were the wazir and the bakshi. The wazir looked after the revenue administration and the bakshi looked after military organisation. Thus they were both very important but neither of them had total control over the administration. The most powerful person was still the emperor.

35. Ans. b

Explan - Sher Shah's real name was Farid. But he was given the name 'Sher' after he had killed a tiger. He was the son of a nobleman who had a small estate near Jaunpur.

Sher Shah's ambition led him to acquire more and more land and build a strong army. Then he proclaimed himself an independent king. After defeating Humayun, Sher Shah declared himself the ruler of India. But Sher Shah's ambition was not simply to be the ruler of India but to be an efficient ruler. He was influenced by the policies of Ala-ud-din, particularly those relating to military organisation and revenue administration.

On becoming Sultan he first reorganised his army into a strong and efficient military force. He improved the administration by insisting that all the officers must be paid their salaries regularly so that they would not be dissatisfied. If anyone had any complaints he could go and see Sher Shah directly and speak to him. This made him popular amongst his subjects.

He went out on tour frequently so that he could personally inspect the work of his officers. In order to fix a just tax he had a new assessment made of all the land in his kingdom. The assessment was done on the basis of measurement as in the reign of Ala-ud-din.

Sher Shah also took pride in the many roads which were built at his orders. These were lined with shady trees and there were wells and rest houses (sarais) for the tired travellers.

The main highway from northern India to Bengal which had first been built by the Mauryas was now rebuilt.

The present day Grand Trunk Road from Peshawar to Calcutta closely follows the line of the earlier road. Delhi was connected by road with Burhanpur and Jaunpur.

Another thing which is associated with Sher Shah was the issuing of the coin called the rupia, which is the same name as that used for our modern rupee.

36. Ans. d

Explan - The Gupta kings had other interests besides religion. They encouraged poets and writers as well. This encouragement made possible the writing of some of the finest poetry and drama.

It is believed that Kalidasa lived for some years at the court of Chandragupta II. His play Abhijnanasha-kuntalam has been translated into many languages and is known in all parts of the world. His poems Meghaduta and Raghuvamsha, apart from their literary merit, also provide a vivid picture of Gupta society.

The language of Kalidasa is beautiful and unlike anything which had been written in Sanskrit before. Sanskrit was much more widely used by the educated than in earlier times.

Another popular work which later came to be translated into many languages of the world was the Panchatdntra, a collection of fables.

37. Ans. c

Extra Information - Kisan Sabhas were organised in different parts of the country which fought against the oppression of the zamindars and the British authorities. The peasants in many places refused to pay revenue and rent.

Some of the leaders who helped in organizing the peasants were Baba Ramchandra, Vijay Singh Pathik, Sahajananda Saraswati and N.G. Ranga. Alluri Sitaramaraju led a revolt of peasants and tribal people in Andhra. He was captured and killed in 1924. Some of the earliest activities of Gandhiji in India were connected with the struggles of the peasants.

The movements of peasants had two aspects, both of which were connected with the nationalist struggle for freedom. One aspect was the participation by the peasants in the struggle for freedom which gave the struggle its wide mass base and support and made it a truly mass movement.

The other was related to the grievances of the peasants i.e. oppression of the zamindars, the government and the money lenders, high revenue, rent and landlessness.

The redressal of peasant's grievances became a major component of the objectives of the struggle for freedom.

38. Ans. d

Related Information - The invasions of the Hunas weakened the Gupta Empire. About a hundred years after their downfall, a new kingdom arose in the seventh century. To the north of Delhi, there is a small town called Thanesar, close to Kurukshetra. In the seventh century A.D., it was the capital of the kingdom of Sthaneshvar (Thanesar) and was the birth place of Harshavardhana. Harsha, as he is generally called, was still young when he was made king on the death of his brother in A.D. 606. But he grew to be a powerful king who tried to build another state in North India, similar to that of the Guptas. Bana, one of the court poets of Harsha, has written a biography of the king. Another Chinese Buddhist pilgrim, Hiuen Tsang, visited India during the reign of Harsha and left a description of what he saw.

He set out on a long campaign and conquered many parts of northern India, including the Punjab, Eastern Rajasthan, and the Ganga valley as far as Assam. But when wished to campaign against the kings of the Deccan, he was stopped by the army of Pulakeshin II, the Chalukya king of Badami.

Harsha's kingdom was similar to that of the Guptas. The kings whom he conquered paid him revenue and sent him soldiers when he was fighting a war. They accepted his power over them, but they remained rulers over their own kingdoms, and in matters of local importance they made their own decisions. Harsha was interested in Buddhism and perhaps became a Buddhist in his later years, although he continued to bestow his patronage on other religions as well.

39. Ans. b

Explan - A republic is that form of government in which power is held by the people or a group of elected persons or an elected chief. There is no hereditary king.

In the ancient republics it was the kshatriya families who owned the land and who also had political power and were represented in the tribal assembly. This is the reason why some historians prefer to call this type of government 'oligarchy', the rule of the chosen few, as the non-kshatriyas were not represented in the assembly. The kingdoms and republics began to make new laws and their systems of government also changed.

40. Ans. a

Explan - Perhaps the most popular work in Sanskrit was the Katha-saritasagara, a collection of stories. Biographies of kings were also written, such as Bilhana's Vikramankadeva-charita. Kalhana's remarkable history of Kashmir called the Rajatarangini was written in the twelfth century.

The worship of Krishna had increased in northern India and the story of the love of Radha and Krishna was very popular. Many poems were written on this theme and Jayadeva's Gita Govinda was one of these.

In addition to Sanskrit, other languages were developing during the period of **A.D. 800-1200**. These were to become the languages with which we are familiar today as regional languages. They arose out of the apabhramsha languages spoken by the common people.

Apabhramsha literally means something which is broken or crooked, and referred to the languages of the people as against classical Sanskrit which was the language of the educated higher castes.

The early forms of Marathi and Gujarati were being spoken in western India and Bengali in eastern India.

41. Ans. a

Explan - Towards the end of the 19th century, new trends began to emerge in the nationalist movement. New leaders who represented these trends came to the fore.

They began to assert that the Indian people could not win their rights by merely appealing to the government. They had no faith in the good intentions of the British government. They taught people to rely on their own strength. They instilled among the people love for and pride in their country. They prepared them for any sacrifice that may be necessary for the service of the country.

The most prominent among these new leaders were Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai and Aurobindo Ghosh. They came to be known as 'extremists'.

The older leaders of the Congress like Surendranath Banerjea, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Pherozeshah Mehta and others were known as 'moderates'. They still believed that the British rulers could be persuaded to see the justness of the Indian demands.

42. Ans. d

Explan - By about 600 B.C., a part of the Ganga plain had been cleared of forests and people had settled down in different tracts - Panchala (Bareilly district), Surasena (Mathura), Kosala (Awadh), Kashi, Videha, Magadha, and so on. These territories were called janapadas and named after the ruling clan in each area. They no longer lived as simple tribes in a group of villages. They formed themselves into kingdoms and republics.

43. Ans. b

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Extra Information - The Swadeshi and Boycott movements were not confined to Bengal but had spread to many parts of the country. It led to the heightening of political activity all over India. British cloth, sugar and other goods were boycotted.

Swadeshi means 'of one's own country'. During the struggle for freedom, it meant that people should use goods produced within the country. This would help promote Indian industries and strengthen the nation. It was also an effective method of developing patriotism.

The promotion of Swadeshi was accompanied by the advocacy of Boycott. People were asked to boycott foreign goods. This helped arouse the nationalistic sentiments of the people. The Swadeshi and Boycott movements were supported by the Congress at its session held at Benaras in 1905 and at the Calcutta session held in 1906. This marked a very big change in the methods adopted by the Congress. These methods were, no longer confined to persuading the rulers by petitions and appeals to their sense of justice.

44. Ans. c

Explan - We know a great deal about the Mauryan period through two literary sources. One is the Arthashastra, most of which as we know it today, was written by Kautilya who was the prime minister of Chandragupta Maurya. In this book, Kautilya explains how a good government should be organized.

The other source is a very interesting account written by Megasthenes in Greek. Megasthenes was the ambassador of Seleucus Nicator and he spent some time in India during the reign of Chandragupta. His account, of which unfortunately only fragments survive, is a description of what he saw.

Megasthenes was impressed by the court and by the luxury in which the king lived. He was always ready to listen to any complaints which his people might make.

Society: Megasthenes writes that the majority of the people worked as farmers. They either had their own fields or they worked for the king. They lived happily in the villages. The herdsmen and shepherds who looked after animals also lived in the villages.

The craftsmen including weavers, carpenters, smiths, potters and others lived in the villages and towns. Some of them worked for the king, while others produced goods for the use of the citizens. Trade flourished and merchants took their merchandise to every part of the country.

45. Ans. b

Explan - The Swadeshi and Boycott movements developed self-reliance among people. It helped in promoting Indian industry and setting up of Swadeshi industries and shops selling Swadeshi goods became a patriotic duty of the Indians and a part of the struggle against Britain. V.O.C. Pillai, a nationalist leader of Tamil Nadu, founded at this time the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company.

46. Ans. d

Extra Information - In Banaras there was a weaver called Kabir who was also a bhakti saint. The dohas or couplets which Kabir composed and taught to his followers are still recited. Kabir tried to make a bridge between Hinduism and Islam. The followers of Kabir formed a separate group known as Kabirpanthis. At a later period Surdas and Dau continued the bhakti tradition.

Chaitanya was a religious teacher who preached in Bengal. He became a devotee of Krishna and composed many hymns to Krishna. He would gather together a group of people to whom he preached and to whom he taught the hymns. He travelled in various parts of the country and then, settled at Puri, in Orissa.

In Maharashtra, bhakti was preached by Jnaneshvara. He also rewrote the Gita in Marathi so that the ordinary people who had not been educated in Sanskrit could understand the Gita. Even more popular were Namadeva and in a later period Tukaram, both of whom continued to preach the idea of devotion to God through love.

47. Ans. b

Explan - Rash Behari Bose, an Indian revolutionary who had escaped from India and had been living in Japan for many years, set up the Indian Independence League with the support of Indians living in the countries of South-East Asia.

Thousands of Indian soldiers of the British army had been taken prisoner by Japan. When Japan defeated the British armies and occupied almost all the countries of South-East Asia, the League formed the Indian National Army from among the Indian prisoners of war with the aim of liberating India from the British rule. General Mohan Singh, who had been an officer in the British Indian Army, played an important role in organizing this army.

In the meantime, Subhas Chandra Bose had escaped from India in 1941 and gone to Germany to work for India's independence. In 1943, he came to Singapore to lead the Indian Independence League and rebuild the Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj) to make it an effective instrument for the freedom of India.

48. Ans. c

Extra Information - In 1854 the government declared its intention of "creating a properly articulated system of education from the primary school to the university." This was an important landmark in the educational progress of modern India.

This declaration, known as the Wood's Despatch, was worked out in detail after the revolt of 1857 and led to the establishment of Public Instruction Departments in the provinces, foundation of a university in each of the Presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras and allotment of government grants to private schools and colleges. A new service called the Indian Educational Service was also introduced which recruited teachers for government institutions all over the country.

These measures led to an increase in the number of schools and colleges run by the government as well as by missionaries and other private organizations. At the same time, government control over education grew. The growth of education was not, however, uniform at all levels and more attention was given to the expansion of high schools and colleges.

49. Ans. b

Explan - The first session of the Congress had been described as India's first National Assembly and the nucleus of a future Parliament for our country. In course of time, it did become the representative organization of the people of the country.

The second session of the Congress was presided over by Dadabhai Naoroji. He was one of the foremost leaders of the Congress for over 20 years. During his stay in Britain, he had formed an association to win over British leaders and the public in support of the demands of the Indian people. He was one of the earliest Indian leaders to hold the view that the poverty of the Indian people was the result of exploitation of India by the British and the drain of India's wealth to Britain. He was known as the Grand Old Man of India.

From its inception, the Congress stood for the unity of the people, irrespective of religious and other differences. The decision to hold its sessions at a different place every year also had the same objective.

50. Ans. a

Extra Information - The most important of the kingdoms of the peninsula which tried to conquer a part of the Ganga valley was the Rashtrakuta kingdom in the north western Deccan.

The Rashtrakutas fought repeatedly against two powerful dynasties, the Pratiharas and the Palas, for the control of Kanauj and the area around it in the western Ganga plain.

The Pratiharas were established in western and central India and the Palas in the east. But the Rashtrakutas had also to fight many campaigns against the most powerful of the southern kings, the Cholas.

The Chola kings began as the rulers of Tamil Nadu, the region around modern Tanjore. They gradually built their power by defeating the Pallava kings and other local rulers. By the eleventh century A.D., theirs was the most important kingdom in the south.

The kingdom of the Pandyas was to the south of the Cholas, in the region around modern Madurai. On the west coast was the kingdom of the Cheras (modern Kerala). By the twelfth century, some of these kingdoms had declined and new kingdoms had arisen.

The Rashtrakutas had been succeeded by a dynasty related to the Chalukyas of the seventh century and therefore called by historians, the later Chalukyas. They were in turn overthrown by the Yadavas who ruled from Devagiri (modern Daulatabad in Maharashtra).

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