

**PRACTICE SET**  
**100 HISTORY QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS**  
**CHAPTER - ANCIENT INDIA**  
**by - [www.QuizKaSamna.com](http://www.QuizKaSamna.com)**

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**1. Which of the following Vedas deals with magic spells and witchcraft?**

- (a) Rigveda
- (b) Samaveda
- (c) Yajurveda
- (d) Atharvaveda

Ans: (d)

**2. Which of the following contains the famous Gayatrimantra?**

- (a) Rigveda
- (b) Samaveda
- (c) Kathopanishad
- (d) Aitareya Brahmana

Ans: (a)

**3. Two highest gods in the Vedic religion were**

- (a) Agni and Savitri
- (b) Vishnu and Mitra
- (c) Indra and Varuna
- (d) Surya and Pushan

Ans: (c)

**4. This Vedic God was 'a breaker of the forts' and also a 'war god'**

- (a) Indra
- (b) Yama
- (c) Marut
- (d) Varuna

Ans: (a)

**5. Of the following scholars who was the first to discover the traces of the Harappan**

**Civilisation?**

- (a) Sir John Marshall
- (b) RD Banerji
- (c) A Cunningham
- (d) Daya Ram Sahani

Ans: (d)

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**6. The first metal to be extensively used by the people in India was**

- (a) Bronze
- (b) Copper
- (c) Iron
- (d) Tin

Ans: (b)

**7. Which of the following civilisations is not associated with the Harappan Civilisation?**

- (a) Mesopotamian
- (b) Egyptian
- (c) Sumerian
- (d) Chinese

Ans: (d)

**8. The Indus or Harappan Civilisation is distinguished from the other contemporary civilisations by its**

- (a) town planning
- (b) underground drainage system
- (c) uniformity of weights and measures
- (d) large agricultural surplus

Ans: (b)

**9. At which of the following Harappan sites has a supposed dockyard been found?**

- (a) Kalibangan
- (b) Lothal
- (c) Suktagendor
- (d) Sotka Koli

Ans: (b)

**10. When Alexander invaded India, Magadha was being ruled by the**

- (a) Haryankas
- (b) Sisunagas
- (c) Nandas
- (d) Mauryas

Ans: (c)

**11. The Harappan Civilisation declined as a result of**

- (a) Aryan invasion
- (b) Decline in foreign trade
- (c) Ecological factors
- (d) Not definitely known factors

Ans: (d)

**12. The Indo-Greek Kingdom set up in north Afghanistan in the beginning of the second century BC was**

- (a) Scythia
- (b) Zedrasia
- (c) Bactria
- (d) Aria

Ans: (a)

**13. Which of the following does not represent an important source material for the Mauryan period?**

- (a) Literary
- (b) Foreign accounts
- (c) Numismatic evidence
- (d) Epigraphic sources

Ans: (c)

**14. During Kanishka's reign, the centre of political activity shifted from Magadha to**

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Ayodhya
- (c) Kannauj
- (d) Purushapura (Peshawar)

Ans: (d)

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**15. The Indus Valley civilisation can be said to belong to the**

- (a) Paleolithic age
- (b) Primitive age
- (c) Neolithic age
- (d) Bronze age

Ans: (d)

**16. Which of the following was the first metal to be discovered and used as tools by humans?**

- (a) Iron
- (b) Gold
- (c) Tin
- (d) Copper

Ans: (d)

**17. After the growth of the Vedic religion the most important development in the history of the so-called Hinduism was the development of**

- (a) Shaivism
- (b) Saktism
- (c) Bhagavatism
- (d) Tantricism

Ans: (c)

**18. Vaishnavism, a later development of Bhagavatism, advocates the worship of**

- (a) Vishnu
- (b) Ram and Krishna
- (c) Vishnu and his incarnations
- (d) Vishnu and Lakshmi

Ans: (c)

**19. The great exponent of Mahayana Buddhism was**

- (a) Ashvaghosa
- (b) Vasubandhu
- (c) Nagarjuna
- (d) Nagasena

Ans: (c)

**20. Jainism was divided into two sects - Swetambaras (White-clad) and Digambaras (Sky clad or naked) - During the reign of the**

- (a) Nandas
- (b) Mauryas
- (c) Kusanas
- (d) Shungas

Ans: (b)

**21. Megasthenes, the ambassador of Selucus at the Mauryan court in Pataliputra, wrote an account of the period in his book**

- (a) Travels of Megasthenes
- (b) Indika
- (c) Indicopecusts
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

Ans: (b)

**22. The Mauryan sculptors had attained the highest perfection in the carving of**

- (a) floral designs
- (b) pillars
- (c) animal figures
- (d) yaksha figures

Ans: (c)

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**23. Who usurped power from the Mauryas after killing the last Mauryan ruler Brihadratha?**

- (a) Pushyamitra Sunga
- (b) Agnimitra
- (c) Vasumitra
- (d) Jyesthamitra

Ans: (a)

**24. The greatest claim to fame of the Satavahanas is on account of**

- (a) Pursuing a tolerant religious policy and giving common patronage to Buddhism and

Brahmanism

- (b) Adoption of Prakrit as their court language in preference to Sanskrit
- (c) Great economic prosperity and brisk inland and foreign trade
- (d) Great contribution to Indian art as evident from the art of Amravati and Nagarjunakonda

Ans: (c)

**25. Vardhamana Mahavira the 24**

th Tirthankar of Jainism was born at \_\_\_\_\_ and died at \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Vaishali and Rajagriha
- (b) Kusinara and Pava
- (c) Kundagrama and Pava
- (d) Kashi and Champa

Ans: (c)

**26. Gautam Buddha as a prince was known as**

- (a) Gautam
- (b) Siddhartha
- (c) Rahul
- (d) Suddhodhana

Ans: (b)

**27. Which one of the following sculptures invariably used green schist as the medium?**

- (a) Maurya sculptures
- (b) Mathura sculptures
- (c) Bharhut sculptures
- (d) Gandhara sculptures

Ans: (c)

**28. After the Kalinga War, Ashoka decided never to wage any war because?**

- (a) After the conquest of Kalinga the political unity of Mauryan India had been achieved
- (b) Ashoka felt apologetic about the destruction of men and material on both sides in the war
- (c) He was moved by the violence, slaughter and sufferings to the combatants and non-combatants in the war
- (d) Shortly after the war he adopted Buddhism which was opposed to violence

Ans: (c)

**29. In the sixth century BC northern India was divided into**

- (a) sixteen great states
- (b) eight republican
- (c) both (a) and (b) above
- (d) Anga and Magadha

Ans: (c)

**30. Ashoka's claim to be one of the greatest rulers in world history lies in the fact that**

- (a) his aims covered both the religious and secular aspects of life
- (b) he worked for the material moral and spiritual uplift of the people
- (c) after a single conquest he dedicated himself completely to the cause of peace
- (d) he attempted to unify the people of different castes and communities into a bond of common moral ideal

Ans: (c)

**31. Which of the following was not one of the actual cause for the decline of the Mauryan empire?**

- (a) Ashoka's pacifist policies
- (b) Division of the empire after Ashoka
- (c) Foreign aggressions particularly Greek
- (d) Economic and financial crisis

Ans: (a)

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**32. Mahavira was**

- (a) the 20th Tirthankara
- (b) the 21st Tirthankara
- (c) the 23rd Tirthankara
- (d) the 24th Tirthankara

Ans: (d)

**33. The founder of Jainism was**

- (a) Rishbha
- (b) Neminath
- (c) Parsvanatha

(d) Vardhaman

Ans: (c)

**34. Buddhism was divided into Mahayana and Hinayana during the reign of**

- (a) Asoka
- (b) Kanishka
- (c) Menander
- (d) Harsha

Ans: (b)

**35. In Jainism the aim of life is to attain Nirvana or Moksha for which one has to**

- (a) follow three jewels and five vows
- (b) practice, non-violence and non-injury to all living beings
- (c) renounce the world and attain right knowledge
- (d) believe in the Jains and absolute non-violence

Ans: (a)

**36. The 'Three Jewels' (Triratnas) of Jainism are**

- (a) right faith or intentions, right knowledge and right conduct
- (b) right action, right livelihood and right effort
- (c) right thoughts, non-violence and non-attachment
- (d) right speech, right thinking and right behaviour

Ans: (a)

**37. The decline of the Nandas at the hands of Kautilya and Chandragupta Maurya has been vividly portrayed in the Sanskrit play written by Kalidasa**

- (a) Mudrarakshas
- (b) Devichandragupta
- (c) Malavikagnimitram
- (d) Mrichhakatika

Ans: (c)

**38. Jatakas are the stories of**

- (a) Buddha's life
- (b) Buddha's previous lives
- (c) The lives of the future Buddhas
- (d) Great saints of Buddhism



Ans: (b)

**39. The most important official post with vast responsibilities created by Asoka was**

- (a) Rajuka
- (b) Yukta
- (c) Dharamamahamatya
- (d) Prativedaka

Ans: (c)

**40. The most famous Indo-Greek ruler of India, famous for his sense of Justice and dialogues with a Buddhist monk Nagasena (as described in the Buddhist work Milinda Panho) was**

- (a) Demetrius
- (b) Menander
- (c) Eukratides
- (d) Heliocles

Ans: (b)

**41. Gautama Buddha was brought up by**

- (a) Mahaprajapati
- (b) Mayadevi
- (c) Kundavi
- (d) Sangamitra

Ans: (a)

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**42. The Phrasae the 'Light of Asia' is applied to**

- (a) Alexander
- (b) Chandragupta Maurya
- (c) Mahavira
- (d) The Buddha

Ans: (d)

**43. Which of the following Sanskrit language?**

- (a) Kushanas
- (b) Mauryas

- (c) Guptas
- (d) Indo-Greeks

Ans: (c)

**44. The family of the Rig Vedic Aryans was**

- (a) Patrilineal
- (b) Patriarchal
- (c) Matriarchal
- (d) Matrilineal

Ans: (b)

**45. Kautilya (also known as Vishnugupta and Chanakya) is the author of Arthashastra which has been compared with**

- (a) Plato's State
- (b) Machiavelli's Prince
- (c) Karl Marx's Das Kapital
- (d) Hitler's Mein Kampf

Ans: (b)

**46. Of all the states in northern India in 6th century BC which of the following states emerged as the most powerful?**

- (a) Anga
- (b) Magadha
- (c) Kashi
- (d) Kosala

Ans: (b)

**47. Match the events of the Buddha's life with the place of their occurrence:**

List-1 List-2

- A. Birth (i) Kusinagar
- B. Attainment of knowledge (ii) Sarnath
- C. First Sermon (iii) Bodh-Gaya
- D. Death (iv) Lumbini

Codes:

A B C D

- (a) i ii iii iv
- (b) ii i iv iii
- (c) iii ii i iv

(d) iv iii ii i

Ans: (d)

**48. Which of the following is the single most important source of the history of Ashoka?**

- (a) Sri Lankan chronicles Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa
- (b) Buddhist works Divyavadana and Ashokavadana
- (c) Inscriptions of Ashoka
- (d) Archaeological Sources and the Puranas

Ans: (c)

**49. Of the five vows (Panch Anuvratas) of Jainism, four existed before Mahavira. The one which he added was**

- (a) not to kill (non-injury)
- (b) not to steal
- (c) non-attachment to worldly things
- (d) celibacy

Ans: (d)

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**50. The proud title of 'Vikramaditya' had been assumed by**

- (a) Harsha
- (b) Chandragupta II
- (c) Kanishka
- (d) Samudragupta

Ans: (b)

**51. Two popular Assemblies of the Vedic period were**

- (a) Sabha and Mahasabha
- (b) Mahasabha and Ganasabha
- (c) Sabha and Samiti
- (d) Ur and Kula

Ans: (c)

**52. In which region was the first metallic coin used in India?**

- (a) The Indo-Gangetic plain of central India
- (b) The Himalayas

- (c) Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh
- (d) The Deccan Plateau

Ans: (a)

**53. The deep transforming effect that the Kalinga War had on Ashoka has been described in**

- (a) Archaeological excavations
- (b) Rock edicts
- (c) Coins
- (d) Pillar edicts

Ans: (b)

**54. The Jatakas are a collection of stories**

- (a) Meant for children
- (b) Based on pet Hindu myths
- (c) About Jain saints
- (d) Pertaining to several different earlier births of the Buddha

Ans: (d)

**55. In the context of ancient Indian society, which one of the following terms does not belong to the category of the other three?**

- (a) Kula
- (b) Vamsa
- (c) Kosa
- (d) Gotra

Ans: (c)

**56. Who among the following is known for his work on medicine during the Gupta period?**

- (a) Saumilla
- (b) Sudraka
- (c) Shaunaka
- (d) Susrutha

Ans: (d)

**57. Who had got the Konark Sun Temple constructed?**

- (a) Kanishka
- (b) Ashoka

- (c) Narasimha Deva II
- (d) Rajendra Chola

Ans: (c)

**58. Ashoka has been particularly influenced by the Buddhist monk**

- (a) Ambhi
- (b) Upagupta
- (c) Asvaghosha
- (d) Vasubandhu

Ans: (b)

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**59. Who among the following was the founder of the Nanda dynasty?**

- (a) Mahapadma Nanda
- (b) Ashoka Nanda
- (c) Dhana Nanda
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

**60. The word 'Veda' has been derived from the root word 'Vid' which means**

- (a) Divinity
- (b) Sacredness
- (c) Doctrine
- (d) Knowledge

Ans: (d)

**61. The Vedic economy was based on**

- (a) trade and commerce
- (b) crafts and industries
- (c) agriculture and cattle rearing
- (d) all the above

Ans: (c)

**62. The normal form of government during the Vedic period was**

- (a) democracy
- (b) republics

- (c) oligarchy
- (d) monarchy

Ans: (d)

**63. According to Strabo, the Tamil kingdom to first send emissaries to meet Augustin in Athens in 20 BC, was**

- (a) Pallava
- (b) Chola
- (c) Pandya
- (d) Chera

Ans: (c)

**64. The Kushan rule was brought to an end by**

- (a) The Nagas
- (b) The Britishers
- (c) Samudragupta
- (d) The Hindu Shahi Dynasty

Ans: (d)

**65. The most common animal figure found at all the Harappan sites is**

- (a) unihorn bull
- (b) cow
- (c) bull
- (d) tiger

Ans: (a)

**66. Most of the large Harappan towns had for fortifications which served the purpose of**

- (a) safety from robbers
- (b) protection against cattle raiders
- (c) protection against floods
- (d) All the above

Ans: (d)

**67. Match the location of the following Harappan sites:**

List-1 List-2

(Sites) (States)

A. Ropar (i) Uttar Pradesh

- B. Alamgirpur (ii) Punjab
- C. Kalibangan (iii) Gujarat
- D. Dholavira (iv) Rajasthan
- E. Banawali (v) Haryana

Codes:

A B C D E

- (a) ii i iv iii v
- (b) i ii iii iv v
- (c) ii i iii iv v
- (d) ii iii I v iv

Ans: (a)

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**68. Division of the Vedic society into four classes is clearly mentioned in the**

- (a) Yajurveda
- (b) Purusa-sukta of Rigveda
- (c) Upanishads
- (d) Shatapatha Brahmana

Ans: (b)

**69. The Vedic Aryans first settled in the region of**

- (a) Central India
- (b) Gangetic Doab
- (c) Saptasindhu
- (d) Kashmir and Punjab

Ans: (c)

**70. The famous Gayatrimantra is addressed to**

- (a) Indra
- (b) Varuna
- (c) Pashupati
- (d) Savita

Ans: (d)

**71. The later Vedic Age means the age of the compilation of**

- (a) Samhitas
- (b) Brahmanas

- (c) Aranyakas
- (d) All the above

Ans: (d)

**72. The town planning in the Harappan Civilisation was inspired by a regard for**

- (a) beauty and utility
- (b) uniformity
- (c) sanitation and public health
- (d) demographic factor

Ans: (c)

**73. The utensils of the Indus Valley people were mainly made of**

- (a) clay
- (b) copper
- (c) bronze
- (d) brass

Ans: (a)

**74. The date of the Harappan Civilisation (2300-1750 BC) has been fixed on the basis of**

- (a) Pottery design
- (b) Stratification
- (c) Aryan invasion
- (d) Radio Carbon-14 dating

Ans: (d)

**75. Which of the following metals was not known to the Indus valley people?**

- (a) gold
- (b) silver
- (c) copper
- (d) iron

Ans: (d)

**76. The Harappan or Indus Valley Civilisation flourished during the \_\_\_\_ age.**

- (a) Megalithic
- (b) Paleolithic
- (c) Neolithic
- (d) Chalcolithic



Ans: (d)

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**77. Cereal(s) grown by the people of the Harappan Civilisation was/were**

- (a) Wheat
- (b) Rice
- (c) Millet
- (d) All the above

Ans: (d)

**78. The term Aryan, Indo-Aryan or Indo-European denotes a \_\_\_\_\_concept?**

- (a) Linguistic
- (b) Racial
- (c) Religious
- (d) Cultural

Ans: (a)

**79. The Vedic religion along with its Later (Vedic) developments is actually known as**

- (a) Hinduism
- (b) Brahmanism
- (c) Bhagavatism
- (d) Vedic Dharma

Ans: (b)

**80. The Harappan Civilisation achieved far greater advancement than Sumer, Elam etc. on account of its**

- (a) town planning
- (b) metal working
- (c) weights and measures
- (d) seals and figures

Ans: (a)

**81. According to the most widely accepted view, the Aryans originally came from**

- (a) India
- (b) Central Asia
- (c) Central Europe

(d) Steppes of Russia

Ans: (b)

**82. Who wrote Mrichchhakatika (Clay Cart)?**

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Kalidas
- (c) Sudraka
- (d) Dandin

Ans: (c)

**83. Who among the following used to hold a religious assembly at Prayag every five year?**

- (a) Ashoka
- (b) Harshvardhana
- (c) Kanishka
- (d) Chandragupta Vikramaditya

Ans: (b)

**84. Architectural developments In India manifested themselves In their full glory during the period of the**

- (a) Guptas
- (b) Nandas
- (c) Mauryas
- (d) Cholas

Ans: (a)

**85. The philosophy propounded in the Upanishads is known as**

- (a) Advaita
- (b) Vedanta
- (c) Yoga
- (d) Samkhya

Ans: (b)

**86. The Hindu social sacraments such as marriage etc. are performed on the basis of the rituals described in the**

- (a) Rigveda
- (b) Yajurveda
- (c) Grihyasutras

(d) Upanishad

Ans: (c)

**87. The name Buddha means**

- (a) enlightened
- (b) learned
- (c) divine
- (d) sacred

Ans: (a)

**88. Chandragupta Maurya with the help of Chanakya decided to overthrow the Nandas because**

- (a) Chanakya had been humiliated by the Nandas
- (b) the Nandas were low-born
- (c) the Nandas had accumulated a great deal of wealth by extortion and oppression of the people
- (d) Chanakya wanted to restore the ideal of Kshatriya rule

Ans: (c)

**89. In his inscriptions Ashoka called himself**

- (a) Devanampriya Priyadarshi King
- (b) Ashoka Priyadarshi
- (c) Dhammasoka (Dharmasoka)
- (d) Daivaputra

Ans: (a)

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**90. The first great empire to the south of the Vindhayas was of the**

- (a) Cholas
- (b) Cheras
- (c) Pandyas
- (d) Satavahanas

Ans: (d)

**91. Mohenjo-Daro is situated in**

- (a) Montgomery district

- (b) Larkana district
- (c) Chandigarh area
- (d) Gujarat

Ans: (b)

**92. Bhagavati refers to worship of**

- (a) Vasudeva Krishna
- (b) Brahma
- (c) Brahma-Vishnu-Shiva
- (d) Durga as Shakti

Ans: (a)

**93. The most striking feature of the Ashokan pillars is their**

- (a) monolithic structure
- (b) carving
- (c) polish
- (d) uniformity of workmanship

Ans: (c)

**94. Which of the following is the oldest of the Vedas?**

- (a) Sama Veda
- (b) Atharva Veda
- (c) Yajur Veda
- (d) Rig Veda

Ans: (d)

**95. After the partition of India, the largest number of Harappan towns and settlements have been found in**

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Haryana
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans: (c)

**96. The best specimens of Mauryan art are represented by their**

- (a) Stupas
- (b) Pillars

- (c) Chaityas
- (d) Caves

Ans: (b)

**97. Which of the following Vedas was compiled first?**

- (a) Rigveda
- (b) Samaveda
- (c) Yajurveda
- (d) Atharvaveda

Ans: (a)

**98. The economy of the Indus Valley people was based on?**

- (a) Agriculture
- (b) Trade and Commerce
- (c) Crafts
- (d) All the above

Ans: (d)

**99. Which of the following objects was not worshipped by the Indus valley people**

- (a) Mother Goddess
- (b) Pashupati Shiva
- (c) Trees such as Peepal and Acacia
- (d) Trimurti

Ans: (d)

**100. Outside India, Buddhism was first accepted in**

- (a) China
- (b) Japan
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Tibet

Ans: (c)

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