

HISTORY OF INDIA

1. In the context of early vedic age which of the following statements is right?
 - (a) The purohita or priest had no special place in the society.
 - (b) The 'Sabha' and 'Samiti' had no power in the selection of the Raja.
 - (c) Religion was not based on magico-ritual formulae.
 - (d) Gods were worshipped for the spiritual upliftment of the people.
2. In the context of later Vedic period, what may not be true?
 - (a) Mixed farming which included cultivation and herding were the main subsistence activity.
 - (b) The importance of both Sabha and Samiti declined.
 - (c) Public and private sacrifices became very important.
 - (d) The important Later Vedic and Early Vedic Gods were different.
3. With regard to the primary scriptures of Hinduism, the Vedas, which of the following is not true:
 - (a) They are revered as apaurisheya, meaning not of human origin
 - (b) They are referred to as Shruti, because the rishis heard the Vedas
 - (c) The Vedas enshrine the knowledge believed to have been revealed to certain rishis by Brahma
 - (d) They are infallible
4. Read the following statement with regard to the early Vedic society
 1. Indra, the God of strength was the most important God
 2. Gods were worshipped for the spiritual upliftment of people.
 3. Religion was based on magico ritual formulae.
 4. The purohita or priest had an important place in society.
 Point out the incorrect statements by selecting the correct code
 - (a) 1, 2 and 3
 - (b) 3 and 4
 - (c) Only 3
 - (d) Only 4
5. Select the correct statements with regard to the Vedic texts:
 1. Brahmanas deal with metaphysical problems
 2. Upanishad deal with methods of performing Vedic rituals
 3. Atharvaveda documents folk tradition
 4. Rigveda and Avesta have carries linguistic similarities
 - (a) 1 and 2
 - (b) 2 and 3
 - (c) 1 and 3
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
6. The following were among the more popular sacrifices performed in Ancient India. Examine the statements:
 1. Rajasuya served as a means to legitimize ruler's position
 2. Vajapeya was carried out to ensure the prosperity of the ruler and the ruled
 3. Ashvamedha served as a means to assert the strength of the ruler, an occasion to recite the popular legends, including fertility rite
 4. Agnihotra was the everyday fire sacrifice prescribed for the male householder
 Select the code for correct statements:
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

7. Some important concepts related to creation and human existence have been explained here:
1. Rta comprises the entire natural and physical order
 2. Purushasukta suggest a possible solution to the fundamental cosmogenic riddle of creation
 3. Chandogya Upanishada carries philosophical speculation on the fundamental problems of human existence.
- Select the code for correct ones:
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Only 3 (d) 1, 2, 3
8. Brahmanas are amongst the earliest works in prose in Sanskrit and are primarily in the nature of explanation or discussions on the rituals and mantras contained in the Vedas and are attached to them
1. Rig Veda Brahmana—Aitareya
 2. Yajur Veda Brahmana—Shatapatha
 3. Sama Veda Brahmana—Jaiminiya
 4. Atharva Veda Brahmana—Gopatha
- Select the code for correct pairs:
- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3
(c) Only 2 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
9. Vedic philosophy as contained in the Vedas carries many aspects. Point out which is not true?
- (a) It is naturalistic and pagan
(b) It is a hieratic religious philosophy, with emphasis on ritual, dogma, magical spells
(c) It attempted to provide solutions to many profound metaphysical problems.
(d) All the above.
10. Some of the important Mahajanapadas of the 6thC BC to 4thC BC and their well-known rulers are given here:
1. Kosala—Udayana
 2. Magadha—Ajatshatru
 3. Avanti—Pradyota
 4. Vatsa—Prasenajita
- Select the code for correct pairs:
- (a) Only 1 (b) 2 and 3
(c) 3 and 4 (d) Only 4
11. Milindapanha is a
- (a) Sanskrit play
(b) political treatise
(c) religious conversation
(d) chronicle
12. Buddha's preachings were mainly related to
- (a) belief in one god
(b) practice of rituals
(c) purity of thought and conduct
(d) idol worship
13. In the context of Buddhism, examine the following statements:
1. Vinay Pitaka deals with the rules of the Buddhist order.
 2. Sutta Pitaka is a collection of Buddhist sermons.
 3. Abhidhama Pitaka discusses the problems of metaphysics.
 4. Jatakas deal with the stories of the previous births of Buddha.

Select the code for correct statements:

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 1 and 3
(c) 2 and 4 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
14. Who presided over the Fourth Buddhist Council when Buddhism split into two broad sects, Mahayana and Hinayana.
(a) Nagarjuna
(b) Mahakashyap
(c) Vasumitra and Asvaghosha
(d) Nagasena
15. The Iron Age burials in south India are characterized by
(a) Ochre coloured pottery
(b) Black and Red pottery
(c) Painted Grey ware
(d) None of the above
16. Kautilya's Arthashastra is a book on
(a) economic relations
(b) principles and practice of statecraft
(c) foreign policy
(d) duties of the king
17. The division of Mauryan society into seven classes was particularly mentioned in
(a) Kautilya's Arthashastra
(b) Ashokan edicts
(c) the Puranas
(d) Megasthenes' India
18. Megasthenes visited India during the reign of
(a) Chandragupta II
(b) Chandragupta Maurya
(c) Ashoka
(d) Harsha
19. Which of the following statements regarding Ashoka's Dhamma is not correct?
(a) Rock edict XIII is of paramount importance in the understanding of Ashokan policy of Dhamma.
(b) The fifth Rock edict introduces the institution of Dhamma maha mattas.
(c) Ashoka's Dhamma could not survive him.
(d) The policy of Dhamma was an attempt at founding a new religion.
20. The great king, Seleucus I Nicator, was the contemporary of
(a) Ashoka
(b) Chandragupta Maurya
(c) Pushyamitra
(d) Bindusara

ANSWER KEYS

01 c 02 b 03 d 04 c 05 d 06 d 07 d 08 d 09 d 10 b
11 c 12 c 13 d 14 c 15 b 16 b 17 d 18 b 19 d 20 b