

SELECTIVE QUESTIONS OF ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY

1. The Aryans dedicated whole of a separate Mandala in Rig-Veda for the hymns dedicated to ___?

- [A] Agni
- [B] Varuna
- [C] Indra
- [D] Soma

Answer: D

Soma & Haoma : (It is the 9th Mandal of Rigveda which contains 114 hymns) The fermented juice of the plant called Soma appears to have been the only intoxicating drink used in Vedic times. So much were the ancient Aryans addicted to this drink, that Soma was soon worshipped as a deity both in India and in Iran (under the name Haoma in the latter country), and we find one entire Mandala, or Book, of the Rig-Veda, dedicated to this deity.

2. Which of the following Pala ruler founded the Somapuri University?

- [A] Gopala
- [B] Kumarpala
- [C] Dharmapala
- [D] Ramapala

Answer: C

The Somapuri University is situated at North Bengal and was founded by Dharmapala, the Pala ruler.

3. Who among the following was the ruler of Kanchi during the time of Samudragupta ?

- [A] Hastivarman
- [B] Mantaraja
- [C] Nilaraja
- [D] Vishnugopa

Answer: D

King Vishnugopa (Pallava dynasty) of Kanchi is mentioned in the list of rulers of the South defeated by Samudra Gupta. It is mentioned in the Allahabad Pillar inscription of Samudra Gupta.

4. Who wrote Kadambari?

- [A] Chankya
- [B] Banabhatta
- [C] Charak
- [D] Radhagupt

Answer: B

Kadambri is a romantic novel in Sanskrit, written by Banabhatta who was the court poet and close companion of Harshavardhana.

5. Which of the following inscriptions mentions the name of Kalidasa?

- [A] Allahabad pillar inscription
- [B] Aihole inscription
- [C] Alapadu grant
- [D] Hanumakonda inscription

Answer: B

Aihole inscription written by the Badami Chalukyas King, Pulakesin II who reigned from 610 to 642 CE and was a follower of Jainism. This valuable inscription discovered in the Meguti temple near Aihole (Bijapur district in Karnataka). The inscription is in the Sanskrit language, which uses the old Kannada script. The accounts of Pulkeshi's campaigns are provided in the Aioli inscription dated 634 AD. It was composed by his court poet Ravikirti. Bharavi, who is associated with the Pallavas of Kanchi along with Kalidasa is mentioned in the famous Aihole Inscription of Pulakesin II.

6. Which Ashokan inscription elaborates the policy of Dhamma?

- [A] Major rock edict IX
- [B] Major rock edict XI
- [C] Major rock edict XII
- [D] Major rock edict X

Answer: B

The Major rock edict XI elaborates the Ashoka's policy of Dhamma. It stresses the respect for elders, abstain from killing animals and liberal towards friends.

7. Which of the following Buddhist scholars wrote the Buddhacharita?

- [A] Vasumitra
- [B] Ashvagosha
- [C] Charaka
- [D] Nagarjuna

Answer: B

The Buddhist scholar who wrote the hagiographic Buddhacharita is Ashvagosha. Buddhacharita is the sacred biography of the Buddha composed in the early second century CE. He also composed the Saundarananda which is a Sanskrit kavya.

8. At which of the following places a lifesized bronze image of the Buddha has been discovered?

- [A] Gwalior
- [B] Ujjain
- [C] Sultanganj
- [D] Topra

Answer: C [

During the Gupta period, Buddhism had a great impact on art and architecture. A life-sized bronze image of Buddha belonging to the Mathura school of art has been found from Sultanganj in Bihar.

9. The Bhimbetka rock shelters are an archaeological site of the Palaeolithic period. It is located in which state?

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Jharkhand

Answer: B

The Bhimbetka rock shelters are an archaeological site of the Palaeolithic, exhibiting the earliest traces of human life on the Indian Subcontinent. It is located in the Raisen District in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, near Abdullaganj town and inside the *Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary*.

10. According to the beliefs of the Pasupata sect, Siva is the lord of Pasu. Pasu here refers to ___?

- [A] Lion
- [B] Bull
- [C] Parvati
- [D] Jiva

Answer: D

The Pasupata was a Saivite sect associated with Siva in his aspect of the “Herdsman” (pasu, “animal” and pati, “lord”). The devotees of Pashupati Siva are called Pashupatas.