



Rajasthan Public Service Commission

Assistant Engineer Examination

History & Culture

**Comprehensive Theory with Practice questions
and Previous year solved questions**



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RPSC Assistant Engineer Examination: History & Culture

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Preface

The compilation of this book **History & Culture** was motivated by the desire to provide a concise book which can benefit students who are preparing for Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) Assistant Engineer Examination.



B. Singh (Ex. IES)

It would be worth mentioning that the entire syllabus of General Studies for RPSC Assistant Engineer Examination consists of five subjects namely Current Affairs, History & Culture, General Science, G.K. & Economic Developments with special reference to Rajasthan, and Geography & Natural Resources. The textbook of all five subjects to be launched separately. These all books will have special focus to Rajasthan which will help the aspirants immensely.

This particular textbook provides all the requirements of the students, i.e. comprehensive coverage of theory, fundamental concepts and objective type questions articulated in a lucid language. The concise presentation will help the readers grasp the theory of this subject with clarity and apply them with ease to solve objective questions quickly. This book not only covers the syllabus of RPSC Assistant Engineer Examination in a holistic manner but is also useful for other examinations conducted by RPSC. All the topics are given the emphasis they deserve so that mere reading of the book clarifies all the concepts. We have put in our sincere efforts to present detailed theory and MCQs without compromising the accuracy of answers.

Our team has made their best efforts to remove all possible errors of any kind. Nonetheless, we would highly appreciate and acknowledge if you find and share with us any printing and conceptual errors.

It is impossible to thank all the individuals who helped us, but we would like to sincerely thank all the authors, editors and reviewers for putting in their efforts to publish this book.

With Best Wishes

B. Singh

CMD, MADE EASY Group

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History of India

Part A : Ancient India

Rajasthan Public Service Commission | Assistant Engineer Examination



The Indus Valley Civilization (2350–1750 BC)

1 Chapter

INTRODUCTION

- Indus valley civilization is also called as Harappan civilization because Harappa was the first site to be excavated in 1921 under the supervision of **Daya Ram Sahni**.
- The known extent of this civilization in the west is upto Sutkagendor in Baluchistan; Alamgirpur (UP) in the east; Daimabad (Maharashtra) in South; and Manda (J and K) in the north.
- This civilization belongs to Bronze Age/ Chalcolithic Age. Hence, it is also called Bronze Age civilization.
- Contemporary civilizations of Harappan civilization are Mesopotamian or Sumerian civilization, Egyptian civilization and Chinese civilization.

Important Sites of Harappan Civilisation

Site	Location	River bank
Harappa	Montegomari, Punjab (Pakistan)	Ravi
Mohenjo-daro	Larkana, Sindh (Pakistan)	Indus
Sutkagendor	Baluchistan (Pakistan)	Dashta
Chanhudaro	Sindh (Pakistan)	Indus
Rangpur	Ahmedabad (India)	Meedar
Kalibangan	Ganganagar (Rajasthan)	Ghaggar
Lothal	Ahmedabad	Sabarmati & Bhogva
Banawali	Fatehabad (Haryana)	Saraswati

Note: *The largest number of sites are found in Gujarat.*

GENERAL FACTS ABOUT SOME SITES

1. Harappa

- Working floors consisting of rows of circular brick platforms which were meant for threshing grain have been found here.

- Six granaries and sixteen *agnikundas* (firepits) have been found here.
- People of Harappa knew the process of making tarcoal.
- Main gate for the entry in the houses of Harappa was in the north direction.
- R-37 cemetery have been found here.
- Terracotta figurine of Mother Goddess have been found here.

2. Mohenjo-daro

- Mohenjo-daro was discovered in 1922 under the supervision of **R.D. Bannerji**.
- The literal meaning of Mohenjo-daro in Sindhi language is **mound of the dead**.
- The Great Bath, a granary, big halls, a bronze statue of a dancing girl, idol of a yogi and numerous seals have been found here.
- The evidences of a assembly hall and proper planned houses with a kitchen and courtyard have been found at Mohenjo-daro.
- Seven layers of Mohenjo-daro city directs that the city was destroyed and rebuilt seven times.

3. Lothal

- A dockyard has been found at Lothal.
- In 1957, Lothal was discovered by S.R. Rao in Gulf of Cambay in Gujarat.
- Red & black clay pots, copper tools, brick built tank like structure, a bead making factory and a seal from Iran have been found at Lothal.
- Linear scale of bronze have been found here.

4. Kalibangan

- It was not as well planned or organised as Mohenjo-daro was.
- It did not have a drainage system.
- A number of firepits *agnikundas* (firepits) have been found here.
- Kalibangan was discovered in 1953. It is located in upper Rajasthan.
- It saw two cultural phases viz. pre-Harappan and Harappan.
- A ploughed field have been found here.

5. Dhaulavira

- Dhaulavira in Gujarat was discovered in 1992 by **J.P. Joshi**.
- A script consists of big alphabets has been found on a gate in Dhaulavira.

IMPORTANT FEATURES OF INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

- **Town planning** was the most distinguishable feature of the Harappan civilization. Hence, this civilization is also called first urbanisation.
- Towns were divided into parts viz. citadel and lower town. Citadels were occupied by members of ruling class and lower town was inhabited by the common people.
- Dhaulavira is an exception because it existed in three parts.
- Harappan cities were developed in **Block Pattern/ Chess Board Pattern** because roads of these cities used to cut each other at right angles.
- Most peculiar feature of town planning was their **drainage system**. Drains were built of burnt bricks and covered by stone lids and manholes for cleaning. It shown that Harappan people were very conscious of hygiene.
- The Harappans knew the art of measurement as some sticks inscribed with measure marks have been found at some sites.
- Complete burial was the most common method of the disposal of the dead.
- **Banawali** and **Kalibangan** shows two phases, viz. pre-Harappan and Harappan.
- Rojadi, Desalpur and Surkotada faced all the three stages of Harappan civilization viz. pre-Harappan, Harappan and post-Harappan.
- **Chanhudaro** was the only city without a citadel.

ECONOMY OF HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION

1. Agriculture & Animal husbandry

- They grew wheat and barley on a large scale. The other crops grown were pulses, cereals, cotton, dates, melons, pea, sesamum and mustard.
- No clear evidence of rice has been found, except from Rangpur and Lothal where some grains of rice were found, but they may be of later period.
- Harappan people were mostly peasants and thus the Harappan civilization was an agro-commercial civilization.
- Evidences of hoe and plough have been found in kalibangan and Banawali.

- Harappans domesticated sheep, goat, buffalo and pig. They also knew about tiger, camel, elephant, tortoise, deer, various birds, etc. However, they didnot know about **lion**.
- **Humpless bull** or unicorn was the most important animal.
- They did not know about the horse, except a jaw bone of horse which has been recovered from Surkotada in Gujarat in upper layers of excavation.
- The Harappans were the earliest people to produce cotton because cotton was first produced in this area. The Greeks called it **sindon**, which is derived from sindh.

2. Crafts

- The Harappan culture belongs to the Bronze Age, as the people were very well acquainted with the manufacture and use of bronze.
- They manufactured not only images and utensils but also various tools and weapons such as axes, saws, knives and spears.
- Weavers wove clothes of wool and cotton. Leather was also known to them but no evidence of **silk** has been found.
- Harappans used to make seals, stone statues, terracotta figurines, etc.
- Huge brick structures made up of burnt bricks and mud bricks suggest that brick laying was an important craft
- Harappans did not know about iron.
- The potters wheel was used to produce their characteristic pottery which was made glossy and shining.
- They knew boat making also, as it is evident from their seals.

Seals

- Their most important artistic work is seal.
- Seals are made of **steatite** and they are square in shape.
- The most depicted animal is bull. Ram, elephants, tigers, rhinoceros are also depicted but Cow, lion and horse are not found on them.
- Seals were meant for marking goods and perhaps owned by traders.
- About 2000 seals have been recovered from Harappan sites.
- Some seals have been found in Mesopotamia also.

- The goldsmiths made jewellery of gold, silver and precious stones.

- Bangle making and shell ornament making was also practised which is evident from the findings of Chanhudaro, Balakot and Lothal.

3. Trade

- Land and sea trade was in vogue.
- A dockyard has been found at Lothal which is the longest building of the Harappan civilization.
- Most important trading partner was Mesopotamia. It is evident from the inscriptions of Mesopotamia. Other trading partners were Afghanistan, Persia, central Asia and various parts of India.
- The Mesopotamian inscriptions refer to trade relations with **Meluha** which was the ancient name given to Indus region.
- Two intermediate trading stations called **Dilmun** and **Makan** are identified with **Bahrain** and **Makran coast** (Pakistan) respectively.
- The mode of trade was barter system.

RELIGION OF HARAPPANS

- Pashupati seal has been found from Mohenjodaro in which a Yogi figure has been depicted.
- The Yogi on the seal is surrounded by buffalo, tiger, elephant, rhinoceros and deer. Hence, the Yogi is said to be proto-Shiva.
- Signs of phallic worship have been found.
- Harappans worshipped Mother Goddess. It is evident from the terracotta figurine recovered from Harappa.

- A building called **Great Bath** have been found at Mohenjodaro which was meant for ritual bathing.
- They were superstitious as they wore amulets.
- Harappans worshipped *pipal* tree.
- No evidences of temples have been found in this civilization.

SCRIPT OF HARAPPANS

- The Harappans knew the art of writing. There are nearly 4,000 specimens of Harappan writing on stone seals and other objects.
- The Harappan script is not alphabetical but mainly pictographic.
- The Harappan script has not been deciphered so far.
- Script was consisted of about 400 symbols, out of which 75 were original and remaining were their variants.

DECLINE OF HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION

- There are different view points of the historians on the decline of Harappan civilization.
- According to Wheeler Aryan attack was the cause of decline of Harappan civilization.
- As per G.F. Dales and Marshall, Aryans were not responsible for the decline of Harappan civilization.
- James Marshall stated that natural calamities were responsible for the decline of Harappan civilization. This theory is widely accepted for the decline of Harappan civilization.



The Vedic Age (1500–600 BC)

2 Chapter

- Aryans are said to be propounders of Vedic civilization.
- They spoke a language called *arya* which was similar to later days Sanskrit. Hence, they are called Aryans.
- Central Asian theory of Max Muller is widely accepted theory of the origin of Aryans.
- The source of knowledge about the Aryans is the Vedic literature, of which Vedas are the most important. **Veda** means knowledge.
- The Vedas are not an individual religious work. The Vedic literature had grown in the course of many centuries and was handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. Hence, they are called *shruti*.
- The Vedas are also called *apaurusheya* which means man did not compose them; and *nitya* which means they were existing in all eternity.

VEDIC LITERATURE

- Vedic literature consists of four classes of literary creations, viz. Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads.
- The Vedas are collection of hymns, prayers, charms, litanies and sacrificial formulae. These are four in number.

1. Rigveda

- It was compiled around 1500–1000 BC.
- The literal meaning of the word *rig* is 'to praise'.
- It is a collection of hymns in praise of gods.
- It has been divided into ten volumes called Mandals.
- Mandal II to VII are the oldest books. They are also called family books because these are attributed to families of *rishis*.
- Mandal III contains the **Gayatri Mantra** which was compiled in the praise of sun god **Savitri**.
- Mandal IX is dedicated only to **Soma** god, the Lord of Plants.
- Mandal X contains a hymn called **Purusha Sukta** in which origin of varna system is discussed.

- Those rishis who were experts in Rigveda were called *hotra* or *hotri*.
- The Rigveda has many things in common with **Avesta**, which is the oldest text in Iranian language.

2. Samaveda

- It is a collection of songs mostly taken from the hymns of Rigveda and set to tune.
- It is a book of chants.
- The experts in the knowledge of Samaveda were called *udgatri*.
- Compilation of Samaveda is known to be the beginning of Indian music.
- Samaveda consists of 1810 hymns.

3. Yajurveda

- It is a collection of sacrificial formulae.
- The experts in the knowledge of Yajurveda were called **adhvaryu**.
- It is found in both prose and poetry.
- It consists of two parts, viz. **Krishna Yajurveda** and **Shukla Yajurveda**.

4. Atharvaveda

- It is a collection of charms and spells.
- It contains magical hymns to get relief from diseases.
- Indian medicinal science called **Ayurveda** has its origin from Atharvaveda.

5. The Brahmanas

- These are prose texts which contain details about the meanings of Vedic hymns, their applications, stories of their origins, etc.
- The Aitareya or Kaushitaki Brahmanas are assigned to the Rigveda; Tandya and Jaiminiya Brahmanas to Samaveda; Taittiriya and Shatapatha Brahmanas to the Yajurveda; and Gopath Brahmanas to the Atharvaveda.
- **Tandya Brahmana** is the oldest of all the Brahmanas.
- **Shatapatha Brahmana** is the most voluminous among all the Brahmanas.

6. The Aranyakas

- These are the concluding portions of the Brahmanas.
- These were called Aranyakas because the mystical and philosophical character of their content required that they should be studied in the solitude of *aranya* (forest).
- They initiated a changeover from materialistic religion to spiritual religion. Thus, they formed a tradition that culminates in the Upanishads.
- Aranyakas are like a bridge between Vedas cum Brahmanas and Upanishads.

7. The Upanishads

- These are the last phase of Vedic literature.
- Upanishads deal with metaphysics i.e. philosophy.
- These are also called **Vedanta** because these were the last books to be compiled in the series of Vedic literature.
- These contain subject matter about soul, **brahman**, rebirth, theory of karma, etc.
- Upanishads emphasized the path of knowledge.
- The literal meaning of Upanishad is 'to sit near the feet of'.
- The most important Upanishads are Chhandogya Upanishad and Brahadaranyaka Upanishad.
- The other important Upanishads are Katha Upanishad, Isha Upanishad, Prasna Upanishad, Mundaka Upanishad, etc.
- The conversation of Yama and Nachiketa is the subject matter or Katha Upanishad.
- The word *satyameva jayate* in the National Emblem is taken from Mundaka Upanishad.

VEDANGAS

- The period after 600 BC is called *Sutra* period. Vedangas were compiled during this period. Hence, they are called *Sutra literature*.
- These are known as limbs of the vedas, hence called Vedangas.
- These are six in number namely:
 - (i) Shiksha – Phonetics or Science of pronunciation
 - (ii) Kalpa – Rituals and ceremonies
 - (iii) Vyakarana – Grammar
 - (iv) Nirukta – Etymology (origin of words)
 - (v) Chhanda – Metrics, rules of poetic composition
 - (vi) Jyotisha – Astronomy

Upvedas

Name	Contents
Gandharvaveda.....	Dance, drama, music
Ayurveda	Medicine
Shilpaveda.....	Art and architecture
Dhanurveda.....	Art of warfare

Ancient Rivers

Rigvedic Names	Modern Names
Sindhu.....	Indus
Vitasta.....	Jhelum
Askini.....	Chenab
Parushni.....	Ravi
Vipasa.....	Beas
Satudri	Sutlej
Drishadvati.....	Ghaggar
Krumu	Kurram
Gomal	Gomati

EARLY VEDIC ARYANS

1. Geographical area

- The early Aryans lived in the geographical area covered by eastern Afghanistan, North-West Frontier Province, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh.
- As per the Rigveda, the whole region in which the Aryans first settled in the Indian subcontinent is called *saptasindhava* region or the **Land of the Seven Rivers**.
- The *Nadisukta* hymn of Rigveda mentions 21 rivers serially beginning from east (Ganga) to the west (Kubha or Kabul).
- Rigveda also mentions about The Himalayas, Mujavant mountains and *Samudra* (ocean).
- Rigveda mentions Saraswati and Sindhu falling in the ocean. Saraswati was the most revered river in the Rigveda.
- Rigveda mentions four rivers of Afghanistan i.e. Kubha, Krumu, Gomati and Suvastu.
- As per the Rigveda the Battle of Ten Kings against Sudas (Bharata king of Tritsu family) was fought on the bank of river Parushni (Ravi) in which Sudas emerged victorious.

- Brahmavarta is the region between Yamuna and Sutlej, the Indus and its five tributaries and the Saraswati.
- Ganga and Yamuna were not the important rivers in the Rigvedic period.

2. Polity

- The polity of the early vedic Aryans was basically a tribal polity with the tribal chief in the centre.
- The tribe was called *jana* and the tribal chief was called *rajana*.
- *Rajana* looked after the affairs of the tribe with the help of other tribal members and two tribal assemblies called *Sabha* and *Samiti*.
- *Sabha* was consisted of elder members of the tribe whereas the *Samiti* which mainly dealt with policy decisions and political business included common people.
- Women were allowed to participate in the proceedings of *Sabha* and *Vidatha*.
- In the day to day administrations, the king was assisted by a *Purohita*. Vasishtha and Vishwamitra were the two important *Purohitas*.
- The king did not maintain any regular army or bureaucracy as there was no kingdom as such.
- *Rajana* used to get a voluntary offering called *Bali*.
- Rigvedic king did not rule over a kingdom, but over a tribe.

3. Economy

- The economy was a semi-nomadic pastoral economy based on pasture lands.
- Cattle rearing was the main occupation of the early vedic Aryans. However, agriculture was also practised as a secondary occupation.
- Barley was the most important crop which was called *yava*. Wheat was a secondary crop.
- Cow was the most important animal of the Rigvedic Aryans.
- *Rajana* was also called *Gopa* which means protector of cows.
- The cow was the most important form of wealth. Thus, the medium of exchange was cow. Cow was also called *aghnya* (not to be killed).
- No currency was prevailing in the Rigvedic period.
- Rigvedic Aryans used the **horses** on a large scale which were absent in the Harappan culture.
- The term *ayas* used for copper or bronze shows that metal working was known.

4. Religion

- The most important divinity in the Rigveda is **Indra**, who is called **Purandar** (breaker of forts).
- Indra played the role of a warlord and he is also considered to be the rain god. 250 hymns are devoted to him in Rigveda.
- **Agni** was only next to Indra. He is the fire god to which 200 hymns are devoted.
- The Rigvedic Aryans did not worship gods for their spiritual uplift or for ending the miseries of existence. They asked mainly for *praja* (children), *pashu* (cattle), food, wealth, health, etc.

5. Society

- Society was patriarchal and the eldest male of the *kutumba* was the head of the family.
- Rigvedic society comprised of four varnas based on occupation of individuals.
- Varna system based on birth was not prevailing in this period.
- The four varnas (*brahmana*, *kshatriya*, *vaishya* and *shudra*) were mentioned for the first time in the **Purushsukta** of Mandala X of Rigveda.
- Every member of same family was free to take any occupation.
- The *niyoga* system provided a childless widow could remarry the younger brother of her deceased husband for the sake of progeny.
- Child marriage was not in vogue.
- The father's property was inherited by son. The daughter could inherit it, only if she was the only child or her parents.
- The system of joint family prevailed.

LATER VEDIC ARYANS

1. Geographical area

- The later vedic Aryans expanded from Punjab over the whole of western Uttar Pradesh covered by the Ganga-Yamuna doab.
- They entered the dense forests of the eastern region, cleared them and reached the modern day Bihar.

2. Polity

- The political system of the later vedic Aryans shifted towards monarchy.
- The king now ruled over an area of land called *Janapada*.
- The king started maintaining army and the bureaucracy also got developed.

- The kingship was being given the status of divine origin. There was also emerging the concept of **king of kings**. Expressions like *adhiraja*, *rajadhiraja*, *samrat* and *ekrat* are used in most of the texts.
- Atharvaveda defines *ekrat* to be the paramount sovereign.
- The *vidatha* completely disappeared. However, the *sabha* and *samiti* continued to hold ground.
- Women were no longer permitted to sit in the *sabha* and it was now dominated by nobles and Brahmins.
- King performed the *rajasuya* sacrifice which was supposed to confer supreme power on him.
- He performed the *ashvamedha* sacrifice which meant unquestioned control over an area in which the royal horse ran uninterrupted.
- He also performed *vajapeya* sacrifice or chariot race, in which the royal chariot was made to win the race against his kinsmen.
- He started asking for tax which were deposited with an officer called *Sangrihitri*.

3. Economy

- Agriculture became primary occupation in later vedic times, though cattle rearing continued as secondary occupation.
- Shatapatha Brahmana speaks at length about the ploughing rituals.
- Rice (*vrihi*) and wheat (*Godhuma*) became the chief crops of the later vedic aryaans, though they continued to produce barley (*yava*).
- Few agricultural tools made of iron were used. Later vedic texts speak of six, eight, twelve and even twenty-four oxen yoked to the plough.
- The plough was known as *sira* and the furrow was known as *sita*.
- Cow dung was used as manure.
- A new metal *iron* was introduced in the vedic age.
- It was known as *shyam ayas* and copper was known as *lohit ayas*.
- Weaving was confined to women but was practised on a wide scale. Leather work, pottery and carpenter's work made great progress.
- The later vedic people were acquainted with four types of pottery-black and red ware, black slipped ware, painted grey ware and red ware.
- The peasants produced enough to maintain the themselves and they could also spare a marginal part of their produce for the support of chiefs, princes and priests.

- Due to surplus production trading activities developed further. The system of borrowing and lending started in items of commodities only.
- The medium of exchange was the cow and some types of jewellery.
- Atharvaveda mentions that drought and excess rain threatened agriculture.
- Guilds of craftsman came into existence. *Shreshthi* was the head of guild.

4. Society

- In later vedic period varna came to be birth based rather than profession based.
- The society came to be divided into four varnas called *brahmanas*, *rajanyas* or *kshatriyas*, *vaishyas* and *shudras*.

Occupation Based Four Varnas

Teacher and priests	Brahmanas
Rulers, Administrators.....	Kshatriyas
Farmer, Merchant, Bankers.....	Vaishyas
Artisan and Labourers	Sudras

Marriage Types

A. Dharmya

Brahma	Arranged Marriage between same classes; No dowry.
Daiva	Father gave his daughter to a sacrificial priest as part of his (priest's) fee.
Arsa	Token bride price in the form of a cow and a bull was paid to the daughter's father.
Prajapatya	Father gave the girl without dowry and without demanding bride price.

B. Adharmya

Gandharva	A sort of love marriage.
Asura	Marriage by purchase of bride.
Rakshasa	Girl abducted and forced to marry the boy against her wishes.
Paishacha	The modesty of girl was outraged when she was in sleep or was drunk or was mad.

- All the three higher varnas were entitled to *upanayana* or investiture with the sacred thread according to the vedic mantras.
- The fourth varna (*shudra*) was deprived of the sacred thread ceremony and the recitation of the *gayatri* mantra.
- Women were generally given a lower position. They lost their political and religious rights during this period.
- The institution of *gotra* appeared in later vedic times. *Gotra* signified descent from a common ancestor. People began to practice *gotra* exogamy.
- In later vedic period four *ashramas* came into being viz. *brahmachari* (student), *grihastha* (householder) *vanprastha* (hermit) and *sanyasin* (ascetic) who completely renounced the worldly life.
- Incidents of polygamy and child marriage increased as compared to early vedic period.
- Joint families gave way to nuclear families which were male dominated.

5. Religion

- The two outstanding Rigvedic gods, Indra and Agni lost their former importance.
- The concept of *trimutri* emerged by which *Prajapati* (creator), *Rudra* (god of animals) and *Vishnu* (preserver and protector) came into being.
- Signs of idolatry appeared in later vedic period.
- **Pushan**, who was supposed to look after cattle, came to be regarded as the god of the *shudras*, although in the age of Rigveda cattle rearing was the primary occupation of the Aryans.
- People worshipped gods for the same material reasons in this period as they did in early vedic period.

- Prayers continued to be recited, but they ceased to be the dominant mode for placating the gods. Sacrifices became far more important.
- Sacrifices involved the killing of animals on a large scale and specially the destruction of cattle wealth.
- The *brahmanas* claimed a monopoly of priestly knowledge and expertise.
- In the later part of later vedic period began a strong reaction against the priestly domination against cults and rituals.
- Around this time the Upanishads were compiled which criticized the rituals and laid stress on the value of right belief and knowledge.
- Upanishads emphasized that the knowledge of the self or *atman* should be acquired and the relation of *atman* with *brahma* should be properly understood.

Important terms of Vedic Age

Vrihi.....	Rice
Usta	Camel
Sarabha	Elephant
Duhitri	Daughter
Gopa.....	King
Gomat.....	Wealthy Man
Charvana	Blacksmith
Hiranyaka.....	Goldsmith
Govikartana	Keeper of Games and Forests
Kulala.....	Potter
Vrajapati.....	Officer-in-charge of pasture land
Sangahitri.....	treasurer
Goghna.....	Guest



Practice Questions

for **RPSC Assistant Engineer Examination**

- Q.1** What were the crops raised by the Harappans?
1. Cotton 2. Wheat
3. Barley 4. Peas
Select the correct answer from the codes given below:
(a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (b) 2, 3 and 4
(c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) 2 and 3
- Q.2** Which of the following statements about the Harappan people is incorrect?
(a) The Harappans were phallus worshippers.
(b) They worshipped gods in the form of human beings.
(c) They placed their gods in temples.
(d) They looked upon the earth as a fertility goddess.
- Q.3** Which of the following statements about the Rigvedic Aryans is incorrect?
(a) We do not find any trace of widow remarriage in the Rigvedic period.
(b) We have some indications of polyandry in this period.
(c) There are no examples of child marriage in this period.
(d) The practice of levirate was known.
- Q.4** Who among the following occupied the supreme position in the Later Vedic pantheon?
(a) Indra (b) Prajapati
(c) Agni (d) Varuna
- Q.5** Which type of pottery was most popular with the Later Vedic people?
(a) Black-slipped Ware
(b) Black and Red Ware
(c) Painted Grey Ware
(d) Red Ware
- Q.6** Which of the doctrines of Jainism was added by Mahavira?
(a) Do not speak a lie.
(b) Observe continence.
(c) Do no commit violence.
(d) Do not steal.
- Q.7** Who is said to be responsible for the spread of Jainism in Karnataka?
(a) Ajatashatru (b) Chandragupta Maurya
(c) Bimbisara (d) Mahapadma Nanda
- Q.8** In what respect did Jainism differ from Buddhism?
(a) In its stress on the doctrine of ahimsa
(b) In denying the authority of the Vedas
(c) In opposing animal sacrifice
(d) In its attitude towards trade
- Q.9** The Pitaka that contains pronouncements attributed to the Buddha, laying down numerous rules for the conduct of the order is
(a) Vinaya Pitaka
(b) Sutta Pitaka
(c) Abhidhamma Pitaka
(d) all the three Pitakas
- Q.10** The Veda that contains charms and spells to ward off evils and diseases is
(a) Rigveda (b) Atharvaveda
(c) Samaveda (d) Yajurveda
- Q.11** In Jainism, 'Perfect Knowledge' is referred to as
(a) Nirvana (b) Ratna
(c) Kaivalya (d) Jina
- Q.12** The daughter who milks animals in the Vedic period was known as
(a) Kubha (b) Duhitr
(c) Komi (d) Sardha
- Q.13** Bimbisara was succeeded by
(a) Ashoka
(b) Ajatashatru
(c) Vasudeva
(d) Chandragupta Maurya
- Q.14** Of the following Kushan kings, who assumed the title "the Lord of the Whole World"?
(a) Kadphises I (b) Kadphises II
(c) Kanishka (d) Huvishka
- Q.15** The fourth Buddhist Council was held at
(a) Pataliputra (b) Vaishali
(c) Kundalavana (d) Bodh Gaya
- Q.16** Megasthenes was succeeded as ambassador by
(a) Darius (b) Demetrius
(c) Deimachos (d) Philip

- Q.17** The author of the 'The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea' was a
 (a) historian (b) poet
 (c) sailor (d) musician
- Q.18** During Karikala's rule the important Chola port was
 (a) Calicut (b) Puhar
 (c) Korkai (d) Thondi
- Q.19** The most famous Chera ruler was
 (a) Udiyanjeral (b) Nedunjeraladan
 (c) Senguttuvan (d) Sengannan
- Q.20** Of the following, who were not the feudatories of Satavahanas?
 (a) Abhiras (b) Ikshvakus
 (c) Pallavas (d) Mauryans
- Q.21** The first Satavahana ruler was
 (a) Simuka (b) Govinda
 (c) Sri Satakarni (d) Nahapana
- Q.22** What is the chronological sequence of the Satavahana rulers given below?
 (a) Gautamiputra Satakarni, Yajnasri Satakarni, Hala, Pulumayi-II
 (b) Pulumayi-II, Hala, Gautamiputra Satakarni, Yajnasri Satakarni
 (c) Hala, Gautamiputra Satakarni, Pulumayi-II, Yajnasri Satakarni
 (d) Pulumayi-II, Yajnasri Satakarni, Hala, Gautamiputra Satakarni
- Q.23** Who erected the Garuda pillar at Besnagar?
 (a) Bhagabhadra (b) Heliodorus
 (c) Menander (d) Antialkidas
- Q.24** The one most important feature of the Mauryan Administration was
 (a) the enjoyment of wide powers by the provincial governors
 (b) the presence of a 'council of ministers'
 (c) the presence of a vast bureaucracy
 (d) the use of an extensive network of spies
- Q.25** Who attended the Fourth Buddhist Council?
 1. Vasumitra 2. Ashvaghosha
 3. Nagarjuna 4. Vasubandhu
 Select the correct answer from the codes given below.
 (a) 1 and 3 (b) 1 and 2
 (c) 2, 3 and 4 (d) 1 and 4
- Q.26** What is the correct chronological sequence of the following Satavahana rulers?
 1. Simuka
 2. Satakarni-I
 3. Gautamiputra Satakarni
 4. Vasishthiputra Pulumayi
 Select the correct answer from the codes given below.
 (a) 1, 2, 4, 3 (b) 2, 1, 3, 4
 (c) 1, 2, 3, 4 (d) 1, 3, 4, 2
- Q.27** Which of the following is not true of Kanishka?
 (a) Kanishka was the founder of Vikrama Era.
 (b) He was a patron of Buddhism.
 (c) He defeated the Chinese army led by Pan-Yang.
 (d) He belonged to the Yuechi tribe.
- Q.28** Which of the following is incorrectly matched?
 (a) Kharavela Hathigumpha inscription
 (b) Simuka Nanaghat inscription
 (c) Sungas Nasik inscription
 (d) Rudradaman I Girnar inscription
- Q.29** What is the correct chronological sequence of the undermentioned Pallava kings?
 1. Nandivarman II
 2. Mahendravarman I
 3. Narasimhavarman I
 4. Simhavishnu
 Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
 (a) 1, 2, 3, 4 (b) 4, 2, 3, 1
 (c) 3, 1, 4, 2 (d) 2, 3, 1, 4
- Q.30** What was the capital of the early Chalukyas?
 (a) Badami (b) Kalyani
 (c) Kanchi (d) Vengi
- Q.31** What was the purpose of the Indian visit of Hiuen Tsang?
 (a) To visit the holy places connected with Buddhism
 (b) To amass wealth
 (c) To know the geography of India
 (d) To establish political ties with India
- Q.32** Which of the following statements is correct?
 (a) Harsha stopped the use of animal food throughout his empire
 (b) Harsha erected thousands of stupas
 (c) Harsha regularly held the quinquennial convocation
 (d) Harsha sent missionaries to the west to propagate Buddhism
- Q.33** Which one of the following is not correctly matched?
 (a) Kalidasa Kumarasambhava
 (b) Shudraka Mrichhakatika
 (c) Varahamihira Brihat-samhita
 (d) Vishakhadatta Kaumudi-mahotsava

- Q.89** With reference to the invaders in ancient India which one of the following is the correct chronological order?
 (a) Greeks–Sakas–Kushanas
 (b) Greeks–Kushanas–Sakas
 (c) Sakas–Greeks–Kushanas
 (d) Sakas–Kushanas–Greeks
- Q.90** The system of philosophy with which the name of Kapila is prominently associated is
 (a) Purva Mimamsa
 (b) Sankhya
 (c) Nyaya
 (d) Uttara Mimamsa
- Q.91** Among the four works mentioned below which one is encyclopaedic in nature?
 (a) Amarakosha
 (b) Siddhanta Shiromani
 (c) Brihat Samhita
 (d) Astanga Hridaya
- Q.92** The famous dialogue between Nachiketa and Yama is mentioned in the
 (a) Chhandogyopanishad
 (b) Mundakopanishad
 (c) Kathopanishad
 (d) Kenopanishad
- Q.93** The Badami rock inscription of Pulakesin-I is dated in Saka Year 465. If the same work to be dated in Vikram Samvat, the year would be
 (a) 601 (b) 300
 (c) 330 (d) 407

Ancient India

Answer Key

Rajasthan Public Service Commission | Assistant Engineer Examination

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|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (c) | 3. (a) | 4. (b) | 5. (d) | 6. (b) | 7. (b) | 8. (a) | 9. (a) |
| 10. (b) | 11. (c) | 12. (b) | 13. (b) | 14. (b) | 15. (c) | 16. (c) | 17. (c) | 18. (b) |
| 19. (c) | 20. (d) | 21. (a) | 22. (c) | 23. (b) | 24. (c) | 25. (b) | 26. (c) | 27. (a) |
| 28. (c) | 29. (b) | 30. (a) | 31. (a) | 32. (d) | 33. (d) | 34. (c) | 35. (c) | 36. (b) |
| 37. (c) | 38. (c) | 39. (c) | 40. (a) | 41. (b) | 42. (b) | 43. (b) | 44. (d) | 45. (c) |
| 46. (b) | 47. (a) | 48. (a) | 49. (c) | 50. (b) | 51. (c) | 52. (a) | 53. (d) | 54. (b) |
| 55. (b) | 56. (a) | 57. (a) | 58. (a) | 59. (d) | 60. (c) | 61. (d) | 62. (b) | 63. (a) |
| 64. (b) | 65. (c) | 66. (c) | 67. (c) | 68. (d) | 69. (c) | 70. (d) | 71. (d) | 72. (d) |
| 73. (c) | 74. (a) | 75. (c) | 76. (a) | 77. (a) | 78. (d) | 79. (d) | 80. (c) | 81. (c) |
| 82. (a) | 83. (b) | 84. (d) | 85. (c) | 86. (c) | 87. (d) | 88. (b) | 89. (a) | 90. (b) |
| 91. (c) | 92. (c) | 93. (a) | | | | | | |