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HISTORY



for

**State Engineering Services Exams,
SSC, PSUs, Banking, RRB and
Other Exams**

by Mr. B. Singh



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Corporate Office: 44-A/4, Kalu Sarai, New Delhi-110016

Ph. : 9021300500 | **E-mail:** infomep@madeeasy.in

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Preface

This comprehensive textbook on **History** provides all the requirements of the students, i.e., comprehensive coverage of theory, fundamental concepts and objective type questions articulated in a lucid language. This concise presentation will help the readers grasp the topics of **History** with clarity and apply them with ease to solve objective questions quickly.

This book covers the syllabus of States Engineering Services Exams including APPSC, MPPSC, MPSC, BPSC, UPPSC; SSC, PSUs, Banking, RRB and other examinations. All the topics are given the emphasis they deserve so that mere reading of the book clarifies all the concepts. The book incorporates theory as well as previous years' questions of various State Engineering Services Examinations, UPSC ESE, etc. It also contains plenty of objective type questions for practice. This book has been very well targeted for aforementioned exams covering all the aspects of subject matter required for these examinations.

We have put-in our sincere efforts to present detailed theory and MCQs without compromising the accuracy of answers. For the interest of the readers, some notes, do you know and interesting facts are given in the comprehensive manner.

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.



B. Singh (Ex. IES)

B. Singh (Ex. IES)

CMD, MADE EASY Group



Ancient India

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Ancient India

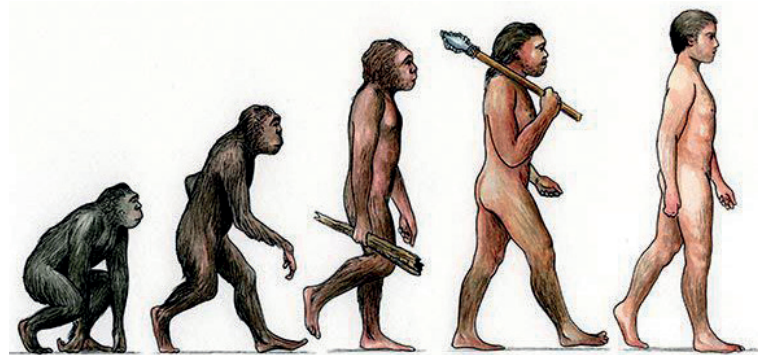
Prehistoric Period

- The early prehistoric period was observed before the 8th millennium BCE.
- The period of the prehistoric agriculturalists and pastoralists was during approximately the 8th to the mid-fourth millennium BCE.

The prehistoric period can be studied under four Periods/Cultures:

- Paleolithic Culture
- Mesolithic Culture
- Neolithic Culture
- Chalcolithic Culture

Culture/Period	Date
Paleolithic Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Paleolithic culture is dated between 6,00,000 and 60,000 B.C. • Middle Paleolithic culture can be dated between 1,50,000 and 40,000 B.C. • Upper Paleolithic culture as per scientific studies is estimated to lasted from about 45,000 to 10,000 B.C.
Mesolithic Culture	9,000 to 6,000 B.C.
Neolithic Culture	10,000B.C. -3000 B.C.
Chalcolithic Culture	2800 B.C.- 1400 B.C.



Paleolithic Culture

The Paleolithic Age in India is divided into three phases, based on tool technology. These phases are:

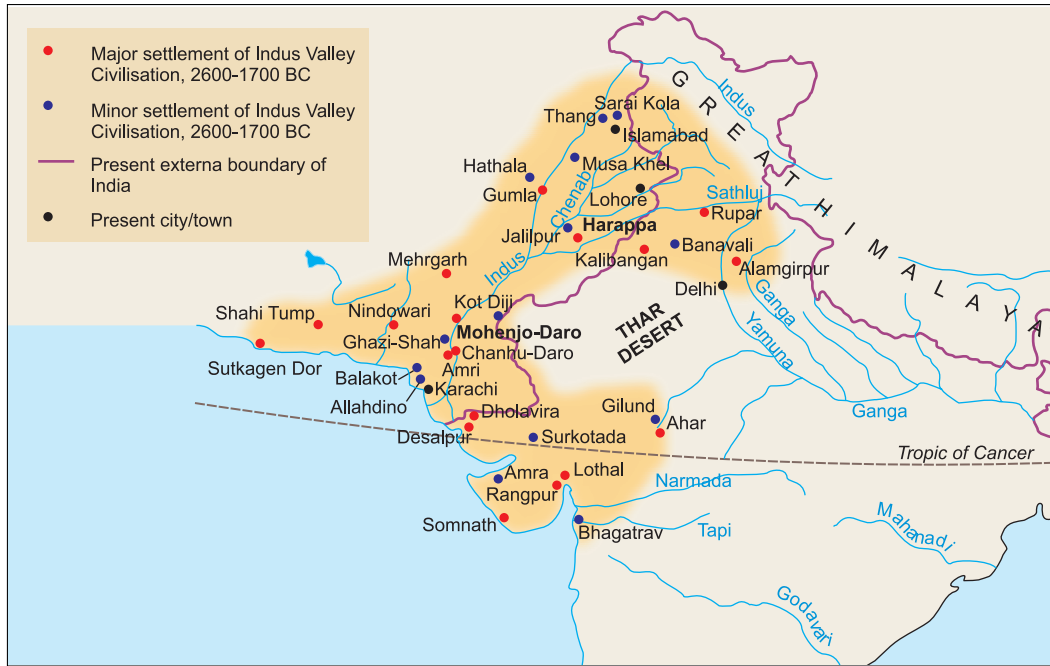
- Lower Paleolithic-Hand axe and cleaver industries
- Middle Paleolithic-Tools made of flakes
- Upper Paleolithic-Tools made of flakes and blades

Lower Palaeolithic Culture

- Lower Paleolithic culture is dated between 6,00,000 and 60,000 B.C.
- Tools- Hand axes, cleavers
- Raw materials used for tools were made of stone, like quartzite, chert and sometimes even quartz and basalt, etc.
- **Important sites:** Pahalgam in Kashmir, Belan valley in Allahabad district (Uttar Pradesh), Bhimbetka and Adamgarh in Hoshangabad district (Madhya Pradesh), 16 Rand Singi Talav in Nagaur district (Rajasthan), Nevasa in Ahmadnagar district (Maharashtra), Hunsgi in Gulbarga district (in Kanlataka) and the famous site of Attirampakkam (Tamil Nadu).

Rangpur

- Rangpur is located near Vanala on Saurashtra peninsula in Gujarat, western India. It is situated in the north-west of Lothal lying on the tip of Gulf of Khambhat and Gulf of Kutch. This site was excavated in 1935 by Madho Swarup Vats.
- Rangpur was divided into the citadel and a lower town. The Citadel was fortified. It was a trading port Harappan city. Evidence of rice cultivation has emerged at Rangpur during excavations.



Major Harappan Sites and their Excavators					
Site	River	District	Province/ State	Country	Excavators
Harappa	Ravi	Sahiwal	Punjab	Pakistan	Daya Ram Sahni (1921), Madho Swarup Vatsa (1926), Wheeler (1946)
Mohenjodaro	Indus	Larkana	Sindh	Pakistan	Rakhal Das Bannerji (1922), Mackay (1927), Wheeler (1930)
Chanhudaro	Indus	Nawabshah	Sindh	Pakistan	Mackay (1925), N.G. Mazumdar (1931)
Lothal	Sabarmati & Bhogva	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	India	S.R. Rao (1954)
Kalibangan (i.e., the bangles of black colour)	Ghaggar	Sri Ganganagar	Rajasthan	India	Amalanand Ghosh (1951), B.B. Lai & B.K. Thapar (1961)
Banawali	Saraswati	Fatehabad	Haryana	India	R.S. Bist (1973)
Dholavira	Luni	Kutchh	Gujarat	India	J.P. Joshi (1967-68)

Medieval India

2

Medieval North India

Origin of Rajputs

The origin of Rajputs is a hotly debated topic among the historians. Two of the most famous theories are as follows:

1. Some of the Rajputs trace their origin to the legendary Solar and Lunar dynasties. They claim to be lineal descendants of the Kshatriyas of Vedic fame. The term 'Rajput' seems to have been derived from the Sanskrit word Rajaputra. Bana uses the term to denote a high-born Kshatriya. The thirty-six royal Kshatriya clans of Rajputs have got mentions in the sacred books, the Puranas and in the two great Indian epics, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. The three basic lineages of Rajputs are Suryavanshi, Chandravanshi and Agnivanshi. These points lead to the conclusion that the term Rajaputra or Rajput was known in early times.
2. **Angulika theory:** The poet Chand Bardai in his poetical work 'Prithviraj Raso' has given a legend that the Rajputs of Parmar, Chauhan, Pratihara and Chalukya clans come from Vasistha's sacrificial fire pit at Mount Abu. This is known as the theory of Agnikula origin. Some Rajputs firmly advocate even now their 'Agnikula origin'.

The above given theories have mythical connotation. The following two theories have some factual validity:

1. Various ethnology and traditions of Kshatriyas in Indian society point towards the Aryan origin of the Rajputs. The Asvamedha sacrifice, the practice of Sati, and the worship of Sun practiced by the Rajputs were well ingrained in the Hindu society. This theory of Kshatriya origin of Rajput clan has more acceptability now.
2. There is also a group of historians who suggests that the Rajputs were descendants of the Sakas, Huns, Kushanas and the Gurjaras, who settled and followed Hinduism.

Some of the historians have further suggested that the invasion of the Huns and other associate foreign tribes in the fifth and sixth centuries shook the Indian society in the North to its foundation. It brought about a rearrangement of castes and ruling families. When the equilibrium was reached, it was found that people belonging to many diverse races were lumped together, called as Rajputs. However, the theory of foreign origin of the Rajputs has less acceptability.

- (c) The Mughal Emperors patronized the people of learning. For example, Abul Fazl was given patronage by Akbar.
- (d) In the field of Music important developments took place during the Mughal rule. For example, Akbar patronized Tansen of Gwalior who composed various ragas. Though Aurangzeb banned singing in his court, playing of musical instruments was not banned. Also, the reign of Muhammad Shah (1719-48) is known for the development of music.

Literature of Mughal Period		
Book	Author	Contents
Tuzuk-i-Baburi	Babur	Military tactics and administration during Babur's reign
Qanun-i-Humayun	Khwand Amir	Humayun's administration, festivities and architecture
Humayun Nama	Gulbadan Begum	Biography of Humayun
Akbar Nama	Abul Fazl	History of Akbar's reign
Tobaqat-i-Akbari	Khwaja Nizamuddin Ahmad Baksh	History of Akbar's reign
Ain-i-Akbari	Abul Fazl	History of Akbar's reign
Muntakhab-ul-Tawarikh	Badauni	History of Akbar's rule
Tawarikh-i-Alfi	Mulla Daud	History of Akbar's reign
Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri	Jahangir	Memoirs of his own reign
Iqbalnama-i-Jahangiri	Mutamid Khan	History of Jahangir's reign
Chahar Chaman	Chandra Bhan Brahman	History of Shahjahan's rule
Padshah Namah	Abdul Hamid Lahori	History of Shah Jahan's reign
Padshah Namah	Mumahad Waris	History of Shah Jahan's reign
Shahjahan Namah	Muhammad Salih	History of Shah Jahan's reign
Shahjahan Namah	Inayat Khan	History of Shah Jahan's reign
Futuhat-i-Alamgiri	Ishwar Das	Aurangzeb's history
Alamgir-nama	Munshi Mirza Muhammad Qazim	An account of Aurangzeb's first 10 years of rule
Massir-i-Alamgiri	Saqi Mustaid Khan	History of Aurangzeb's reign written after his death
Nuskha-i-Dilkusha	Bhimsen Saxena	Analysis of Aurangzeb's rule and character

Modern India

3

Advent of European Companies

Discovery of sea route to India

- In 1453, land routes were blocked by Ottoman Turks.
- There was a monopoly of Arab rulers in the Red Sea. This prompted the Europeans to search for a new sea route to India.
- Also Renaissance was at its peak in the European world which gave way to science, trade, explorations and new discoveries.
- Columbus of Spain discovered America where as in 1498, Vasco-da-Gama of Portugal discovered India. He came to India via **Cape of Good Hope** (Africa).

Sequence of Arrivals

Company	Year	H.Q./Capital
Portuguese East India Company (Formed by Vasco-da-Gama)	1498	Cochin (1510-30), Goa (1530-1961)
Dutch East India Company	1602	East coast: Coromandal, Pulicut, Bengal
English East India Company	1608	West coast: Surat, Bombay East coast : Coromandal, Masulipattanam, Madras
French East India Company (Formed by Colbert)	1664	Surat (1668-73), Pondicherry (1673-1954)

Portuguese East India Company

- Vasco-da-Gama reached to **Calicut** (Kerala or Kozhicode) where Zamorin ruler welcomed his arrival.
- In 1501, Vasco-da-Gama's second visit resulted in conflict with the Zamorin King as he refused to exclude Arabs from the trade.
- Cannore, Calicut and Cochin were the important trading centers of the Portuguese.

Portuguese Governors in India

- **Francisco de Almeida:** Almeida was the first Portuguese governor appointed in 1605. He wanted to create Portuguese dominance over the Indian ocean. In this venture he had to fight with Egyptian, Gujarat and Arab navies.
- **Alfonso de Albuquerque:** Alfonso succeeded Almeida as the governor. He consolidated the Portuguese power in India and conquered Goa in 1910 by defeating the Sultan of Bijapur.
- **Nino da Cunha:** Nino Da Cunha became governor in 1629 and he shifted the headquarters of the Portuguese government from Cochin to Goa. He secured Bassein and a base in Diu from Mughal emperor Humayun.

Decline of Portuguese

- Because of their religious, political, corrupt and dishonest policies, Portuguese lost the favor of Mughal Emperors as well as natives in the region.
- By 18th century Portuguese rule was on decline as they lost their commercial influence.

HISTORY



Previous Years' Questions & Practice Questions



Ancient India

- 1.** Chandragupta Maurya built the first empire in with the help of
(a) Mahapadmananda
(b) Bindusara
(c) Seleuces
(d) Kautilya

[BPS (AE) : 2001]

Ans. (d)

- 2.** The Jains believe that Mahavira was the last of the
(a) teachers (b) prophets
(c) monks (d) tirthankaras

[BPS (AE) : 2001]

Ans. (d)

- 3.** One of the most outstanding ancient Indian astronomer was
(a) Panini (b) Asvaghosha
(c) Aryabhata (d) Susruta

[BPS (AE) : 2001]

Ans. (c)

- 4.** The people of Indus Valley Civilization worshipped
(a) Pashupati (b) Indra
(c) Brahma (d) Vishnu

[BPS (AE) : 2006]

Ans. (a)

- 5.** Buddha preached first sermon at
(a) Lumbini (b) Sarnath
(c) Sanchi (d) Gaya

[BPS (AE) : 2006]

Ans. (b)

- 6.** Where is the "Nirwana Sthal" (death place) of Buddha?
(a) Sarnath (b) Rajgir
(c) Bodhgaya (d) Kushinagar

[BPS (AE) : 2006]

Ans. (d)

- 7.** The first country in which Buddhism was Propagated outside India is
(a) Japan (b) China
(c) South Korea (d) Sri Lanka

[BPS (AE) : 2017]

Ans. (d)

- 8.** Which of the following is not true about the ancient texts of India ?
(a) The Rig Veda is the earliest of all Vedic texts.
(b) The Rig Veda contains both prayers and rituals.
(c) The Upanishads contain philosophical speculations.
(d) Panini's writings illustrate the rules of Sanskrit grammar.

[OP (AE) : 2021]

Ans. (b)

9. Which of the following is not true about the Sangam literature?

- (a) It comprised prose literature
- (b) It is in Tamil language.
- (c) Its final compilation may have been completed by the sixth century A.D.
- (d) The chiefs and kings had patronized its compilation.

[OPSC (AE) : 2021]

Ans. (a)

10. Which of the following period is significant for the beginning of agriculture ?

- (a) Paleolithic Age (b) Mesolithic Age
- (c) Neolithic Age (d) Iron Age

[OPSC (AE) : 2021]

Ans. (c)

11. Which one of the following statements is most appropriate about the Gandhara art?

- (a) Its theme is Indian, its style is Greek
- (b) Its theme is Greek, its style is Indian
- (c) Its theme and style are Greek
- (d) Its theme and style are Indian

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (a)

Gandhara School of Art flourished during Kushana Period.

12. Which one of the following works deals with the history of Kashmir?

- (a) Gaudavaha
- (b) Harshacharita
- (c) Rajatarangini
- (d) Vikramankadevacharita

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (c)

'Rajatarangini' was written by Kalhana.

13. Which one of the following was the major work to say that salvation by means of devotion is open to all humans regardless of birth, gender or station in life?

- (a) Atharva Veda
- (b) Chhandogya Upanishad

- (c) Dhammapada
- (d) Bhagavata Purana

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (d)

14. Which one of the following Vedic sacrifices was a royal consecration ceremony?

- (a) Agnihotra (b) Rajasuya
- (c) Vajapeya (d) Ashwamedha

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (b)

Rajasuya : Royal coronation

Vajapeya : Drink of strength

Ashwamedha : Unlimited Power

15. Which one of the following dynasties was ruling at the time of Alexander's invasion?

- (a) The Nanda dynasty
- (b) The Maurya dynasty
- (c) The Sunga dynasty
- (d) The Kanva dynasty

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (a)

During the time of Alexander's invasion, the ruler was **Dhanananda** of Nanda Dynasty.

16. In which one of the following is **Brahman** the central theme?

- (a) The Vedas (b) The Brahmanas
- (c) The Upanishads (d) The Sutras

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (c)

17. In which one of the following do we come across a detailed account of the municipal administration of the Mauryas?

- (a) The Arthashastra of Kautilya
- (b) The account of Megasthenes
- (c) The Mudrarakshasa
- (d) Mauryan inscriptions

[ESE : 1996]

Ans. (b)

'**Arthashastra**' : a book written by **Kautilya** or **Vishnugupta** deals with statecraft.

'**Mudrarakshasa**' : was written by **Vishakhadatta**.

- 18.** The Varnas come to be transformed into the hereditary castes during the
- Later Vedic period
 - Gupta period
 - Mauryan period
 - Early Vedic period

[ESE : 1997]

Ans. (a)

- 19.** Consider the following statements :
- Assertion (A):** Human figure was the pivot for the sculpture of the Gupta period.
- Reason (R):** In the Gupta period, the artists lost interest in nature.

Of these statements

- both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A
- both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A
- A is true but R is false
- A is false but R is true

[ESE : 1997]

Ans. (c)

- 20.** In ancient and early medieval India Agrahara denoted
- Jaina monastic establishment
 - Secular land grants
 - Tax free land gifted to temples
 - Tax free village possessed by Brahmanas

[ESE : 1997]

Ans. (d)

- 21.** Consider the following statements:
- Assertion (A):** Classical Sanskrit literature reached the pinnacle of its glory during the time of Kalidas.

Reason (R): The Gupta period is the classical period of Sanskrit literature.

Of these statements

- both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A
- both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A
- A is true but R is false
- A is false but R is true

[ESE : 1997]

Ans. (a)

- 22.** The Indus or the Harappan culture is
- neolithic culture
 - palaeolithic culture
 - chalcolithic culture
 - post-chalcolithic culture

[ESE : 1997]

Ans. (c)

- 23.** The difference in years between Vikram Era and the Christian Era is
- 57
 - 58
 - 78
 - 135

[ESE : 1997]

Ans. (b)

Vikram Era : 58 B.C.

Christian Era : 1st A.D.

Vikram Era was started by **Vikramaditya**, a king of Ujjain who drove away the Sakas.

- 24.** Which one of the following mentioned divisions of the Mauryan Society into seven classes?
- Ashoka's Edicts
 - Indica
 - Kautilaya's Arthashastra
 - Vishnu Purana

[ESE : 1997]

Ans. (b)

'Indica' was written by Megasthenes.

- 25.** Which of the following Jain doctrines is/are considered as the original contribution of Mahavira?

- Non-violence (ahimsa)
- Truth
- Non-stealing
- Sexual continence (brahmacharya)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1 only
- 1 and 2
- 2 and 3
- 4 only

[ESE : 1997]

Ans. (d)

Celibacy which means sexual continence.

26. The concept of Avatarvad is associated with
 (a) Hinayana (b) Shaivism
 (c) Tantricism (d) Vaishnavism

[ESE : 1997]

Ans. (d)

27. Consider the following statements :
 Ajanta Paintings portray
 1. Buddhist elements
 2. Secular aspects
 3. Jain culture

Which of these statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 alone (b) 1 and 2
 (c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) 3 alone

[ESE : 1998]

Ans. (a)

28. The beautiful wooden railings in the Sanchi Stupa were made during the reign of
 (a) Ashoka (b) Satavahanas
 (c) Guptas (d) Harsha

[ESE : 1998]

Ans. (c)

29. The theory of Agnikula is related to the origin of
 (a) Brahmins (b) Rajputs
 (c) Shudras (d) Vaishyas

[ESE : 1998]

Ans. (b)

Pratiharas, Chalukyas of Gujarat, Chahamanas, Parmaras. They belonged to **Agnikula** land.

30. The following four personalities appeared in India at one time or the other :
 1. Varahamihira 2. Ashwaghosa
 3. Kautilya 4. Panini

The correct chronological order in which they appeared is

- (a) 3, 4, 1, 2 (b) 3, 4, 2, 1
 (c) 4, 3, 1, 2 (d) 4, 3, 2, 1

[ESE : 1998]

Ans. (d)

Panini : 4th to 5th B.C. He wrote Ashtadhyayi.

Kautilya : 2nd to 3rd B.C.

Ashwaghosa : 1st to 2nd A.D.

Varahamihira : 3rd to 4th A.D.

31. Which one of the following pairs is NOT correctly matched?

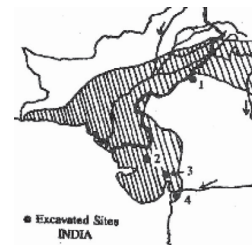
- (a) HoyasalasDwarasamudra
 (b) Kakatiyas..... Warangal
 (c) Pallavas.....Devagiri
 (d) Chalukyas Kalyani

[ESE : 1998]

Ans. (c)

Pallavas of Kanchipuram

32. The geographical spread of the Harappan Culture, indicated in the map, shows four excavated sites of Indian-side marked as 1, 2, 3 and 4. Match **List-I** (Site Names) with **List-II** (Serial Nos.) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:



List-I	List-II
A. Lothal	1. 1
B. Kalibangan	2. 2
C. Bhagtrav	3. 3
D. Dhaulavira	4. 4

Codes:

	A	B	C	D
(a)	3	1	2	4
(b)	1	3	2	4
(c)	3	1	4	2
(d)	1	3	4	2

[ESE : 1998]

Ans. (c)

33. Which one of the following is associated with the Gupta Age of Indian history?

- (a) Visit of Chinese pilgrim Hsuan Tsang
 (b) Significant contribution to Indian astronomy by Aryabhatta
 (c) Significant contribution to poetry and literature by Banabhatta
 (d) Macedonian invasion

[ESE : 1999]