

M.A. Examination ,2022

Semester I

AIHC & A

Course A.1

Time: 3 hours

Historical Geography of Early India

Full Marks:40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any *three* questions.

1. How will you understand the historical geography of the Indian subcontinent from inscriptional sources?
2. Explain the physical divisions of India found from the literary accounts.
3. Discuss the mountain systems of India as referred to in the indigenous literature.
4. Discuss the political geography of south India from the 6th to the 10th century CE.
5. Comment on the significance of the ports of the Indian subcontinent in the Indian Ocean maritime trade network.
6. Write short notes on any *two* of the following:-
 - a. Ayodhyā
 - b. Magadha
 - c. Bhṛgukachchha
 - d. Kalinga

M.A. Examination, 2022

Semester I

AIHC& A

Course – A.2

(Archaeological Background to the Study of Indian History)

Full Marks: 40

Time: Three Hours

Questions are of equal value

Answer any three questions

1. Discuss the importance of archaeology in the present context with special emphasis on the objectives and scope of archaeology
2. Archaeology is often called interdisciplinary science – Discuss this in understanding its relation with History and Anthropology.
3. Describe the development of archaeology in global context
4. Discuss the suitable excavation technique for excavating a megalithic site.
5. Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Archaeological Record.
 - b) Importance of maps in exploration.
6. Write short notes on the following:
 - (a) Role of Sciences in Archaeology.
 - (b) Palaeolithic cultures in India.

M.A. Examination, 2022

Semester-I

Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology

Course – A.3 - Religion and Art in Early India

(From the Middle of 2nd Millennium BCE to 1300 CE)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any three* questions

1. Briefly discuss the evolution of early Indian religious ideas from the middle of the 2nd millennium BCE to 600 BCE.
2. Analyze the origin and development of image worship in early India as argued by J.N. Banerjea.
3. What was the rationale behind the emergence of Buddhism in the 6th century BCE?
4. How did the Brahmanical canons on art and architecture canvass the iconographical tradition in early medieval India?
5. Give a few critical explanations for causing the materialization of the 'Devī Cult' in the early medieval period. Discuss any three iconographical forms of the Śākta goddesses.
6. Write short notes in *any two* of the following:
 - a. Features of Tāntrism.
 - b. Geographical distribution of Nāgara architecture.
 - c. Composite and benevolent forms of Śiva.
 - d. Sarasvatī and Skanda.

M.A. Examination, 2022

Semester-I

AIHC&A

Course – A-4

Early Indian Social and Economic History

(From the Middle of 2nd millennium BCE to 1300CE)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any three** questions

1. Write a critical note on kin based society in early India.
2. Describe the role of race, caste and conflict in shaping the Indian society.
3. Discuss in detail about the material base of second urbanisation in early India.
4. Critically analyse the role of land grants in expansion of agrarian economy during 4th to 8th century CE.
5. Critically analyse the caste structure of the early south India as reflected in the early Tamil Literature.
6. Briefly narrate the nature of polity and state structure in early medieval India.

M.A. Examination, 2022

Semester I

AIHC&A

Course-A5

(Early Indian Epigraphy and Numismatics from middle of 2000BCto1300CE)

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

Questions are of equal value
*Answer any **three** questions.*

1. Discuss the merits and limitations of inscriptions.
2. Discuss the historical importance of Mahāsthāna inscription.
3. How did Hariṣena describe the relationship of Samudragupta with various powers in the Allahabad Praśasti?
4. Comment on the achievements of the Sātavāhanas on the basis of the Nāsik Praśasti.
5. Write a detailed note on the coins of Vima –Kadhphises.
6. Write a short note on any **two** of the following:-
 - 1) Janapada Punch- marked coins
 - 2) Date of Takht-i- Bāhi inscription
 - 3) Coins of Western Kshatrapa kings
 - 4) Gupta Vallabi era

M.A. Examination, 2022

Semester-I

AIHC&A

Course – A.6

Approaches to the Study of Ancient India's Past

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any three questions

1. Critically examine the nature, scope and philosophy of history.
2. Explain, what is historiography? and discuss in brief the Roman historiography.
3. Highlights the importance of Buddhist and Jain sources in the reconstruction of ancient India's past.
4. Discuss in detail the modern approaches to the study of India's ancient past.
5. Bring out the contribution of Orientalist to the historiography of India.
6. Write short notes on **any two** of the followings:-
 - a) Greek Historiography
 - b) *Puranas* as source of history
 - c) Sir William Jones
 - d) What is historical methodology?

M.A. Examination ,2023

Semester I

AIHC & A

Course A1 (Core)

Time: 3 hours

Historical Geography of Early India

Full Marks:40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any four questions.

1. How will you understand the historical geography of the Indian subcontinent from the indigenous literary sources?
2. Discuss about the features of early historic urbanism in north India.
3. Explain the historical geography of the sites yielding Aśokan inscriptions.
4. Write an essay on the early medieval political geography of India.
5. Describe the significance of peninsular India in the Indian Ocean maritime trade network.
6. Give an account of the 'dvīpas' on the basis of the Purāṇas.
7. What is the relation between the epic and the archaeological tradition?
8. Write short notes on any two of the followings:-
 - a. Bhāratavarṣa
 - b. Ayodhyā
 - c. Jambudvīpa
 - d. Ṛkṣa-Vindhya-Pāripātra

M.A. Examination, 2023

Semester I

AIHC&A

Course – A.2

Archaeological Background to the Study of Ancient Indian History

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any four questions

1. Discuss the aims, objectives and scope of archaeology.
2. Trace the development of archaeology in India from the time of Sir Alexander Cunningham till the period of Mortimer Wheeler.
3. Write an account of the importance of systematic explorations in field archaeology.
4. How horizontal excavations are important for studying a town site? Discuss its merits and demerits.
5. How relative dating techniques are important for archaeology? Emphasize this with examples of three relative dating techniques.
6. Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Radio Carbon Dating
 - b) Importance of archaeozoology
7. Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Ethnoarchaeology
 - b) Experimental Archaeology
8. Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Various categories of archaeological sites
 - b) Neolithic Cultures of North and South India

M.A. Examination, 2023

Semester-I

AIHC&A

Course – A.3

Religion and Art in Early India (From middle of 2000 BCE to 1300 CE)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any four** questions

1. Trace the various elements of religion in Harappan Civilization.
2. Write an essay on Vedic Religion.
3. Give an overview of Sūrya worship with its iconography.
4. Write the details of the non-iconic and Iconic representations of the Buddha.
5. Describe the iconography of the Avatāras of Viṣṇu.
6. State the salient features of Śiva both in aggressive and benevolent forms.
7. Write a note on Temple architecture with reference to Nāgara Style.
8. Write notes on the following -
 - a. Āyāgapāṭas
 - b. Mahāvira

M.A. (A.I.H.C & A)

Semester: 1, 2023

Subject: Early Indian Social and Economic History (From the Middle of 2nd Millennium BCE to 1300 CE)

Paper/Course : A-4

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value
Answer any Four questions

1. Describe the major division between caste, and kin-based society in ancient India.
2. Critically analyse the term “myth of the origin of *chaturvarna*” system” and the division between higher and lower *varna*.
3. Write an essay on the material basis for process of second urbanisation with examples from different emerging early historic settlements.
4. Describe the nature of agrarian economy and crafts production in early India.
5. Critically evaluate the social conditions of south India as reflected in the literary texts of the Sangam age.
6. Write a note on agrarian expansion and evolution of state and society in Deccan.
7. Discuss in detail about the changes in social and economic structure of early medieval Indian society.
8. Analyse critically the theory of segmentary state.

M.A. Examination, 2023

Semester I

AIHC&A

Course- A5

**(Early Indian Epigraphy and Numismatics from middle of 2000BCE
to1300CE)**

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

*Answer any **four** questions.*

1. How would you reconstruct the early history of India on the basis of inscriptions?
2. Discuss the importance of Rock Edict XIII of Aśoka.
3. Review the personality and achievements of Gautamiputra Sātakarṇi on the basis of the Naṣik Praśasti of Gautamī Balaśrī.
4. Write what do you know of the Sudarśana lake from the Junāgarh inscription of Rudradaman.
5. Describe the salient features of the Punch- marked coins.
6. What types of coins were issued by Kushāṇa kings and what impact it had on Gupta kings?
7. What were the types of coins issued by Samudra Gupta and state its significance?
8. Describe the characteristic features of the coins of the Western Kshatrapa.

M.A. EXAMINATION 2023
SEMESTER – I
ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY, CULTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Paper - A.6 Approaches to the Study of Ancient India's Past

TIME: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any four** questions

1. Give a detailed account of the nature and scope of history.
2. Write a comprehensive note on the Greco-Roman tradition of history writing.
3. Assess the early Indian historical tradition with special emphasis on the Brahmanical tradition.
4. Write the nature of chronicles in ancient Indian historiographical tradition with a suitable example.
5. Discuss the role of different approaches in shaping historical accounts and the challenges it pose in the reconstruction of Ancient Indian history.
6. Evaluate the contribution of Orientalists to the study and understanding of India's past.
7. How do historians deal with bias and subjectivity when constructing narratives about the past?
8. Discuss the concept of periodization in history. What are the implications of such periodization?

M.A. Examination ,2024

Semester I

AIHC & A

Course A.1

Time: 3 hours

Historical Geography of Early India

Full Marks:40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any *four* questions.

1. What do you understand by the term 'historical geography'? How can it be utilized for understanding the early history of Indian subcontinent?
2. Is the concept of 'Bhāratavarṣa' understandable solely from the Purāṇas ? Give your arguments.
3. Write an essay on the cities of India that emerged in the 6th century BCE.
4. Write about the 'kulaparvatas' as mentioned in the indigenous literature.
5. Describe the boundary of 'Jambudvīpa' following Aśokan inscriptions.
6. How did Alexander Cunningham contribute to the identification and understanding of Buddhist sites in India?
7. What do you know about the political geography of early medieval Deccan?
8. Write short notes on any *two* of the following:-
 - a. Gāndhāra
 - b. Madhyadeśa
 - c. Muziris
 - d. Xuan Zang

MA Examination 2024

Semester I

AIHC&A

Course – A.2

Archaeological Background to the Study of Ancient Indian History

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 40

Answer any four questions

1. Discuss the relevance of archaeology defining its aims, objectives and scope.
2. Write a note on the relationship between archaeology and history with suitable examples.
3. Trace the development of archaeology in the world context from the age of antiquarianism to the period of New Archaeology.
4. Write a note on the vertical excavation method in archaeology and its merits and demerits.
5. What excavation method will you follow to excavate a megalithic site? Explain in detail.
6. Archaeology is known as a multidisciplinary science. Discuss this with the role of science in archaeology.
7. Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Archaeological Record
 - b) Importance of maps in systematic exploration in archaeology
8. Write short notes on the following
 - a) Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Cultures of India
 - b) Chalcolithic Culture in Deccan

M.A. Examination, 2024

Semester-I

Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology

Course – A.3 - Religion and Art in Early India

(From the Middle of 2nd Millennium BCE to 1300 CE)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. Trace the development of early Indian religion from 600 BCE to 1300 CE.
2. Discuss the nature and themes of early Vedic religious ideas in the light of important literary traditions.
3. Did the orthodox Brahmanism collapse towards the end of the later Vedic period? What were the prior reasons for that?
4. What was the rationale behind the transition from symbols to icons? Explain.
5. Do you think that the Brahmanical religion changed the shape of image worship and sculptural art? Scrutinize with suitable sources.
6. What was the trend of Puranic Brahmanism in early medieval India? Discuss the salient features of that period.
7. Analyze the origin and development of the 'Divine Feminine'. Canvass the iconographic features of goddess Pārvatī.
8. Write short notes in any two of the following:
 - a. Nāgara temple architecture,
 - b. Tīrtha and Kṣetra,
 - c. Iconography of Kārttikeya,
 - d. Saumya form of Śiva.

M.A. (A.I.H.C.& A)

Semester: 1, 2024

Subject: Early Indian Social and Economic History (From the Middle of 2nd Millennium BCE to 1300 CE)

Paper/Course : A-4

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any Four questions

1. Define the roles of diverse landscape and diverse population in shaping the ancient Indian society.
2. Discuss in detail the term *Varna* used for identifying ancient classes in India and about the stages of evolution of social stratification in early India.
3. Describe the definition of Urban centres as suggested by Gordon Childe for ancient Indian towns and how can we relate this in the context of early historical urbanisation in the Gangetic plain.
4. Describe the administrative mechanism to regulate economy during Mauryan period.
5. Give a brief account of the nature of the South Indian society and economy as reflected in the literary and epigraphical sources.
6. Discuss in detail role of land grants in the expansion of agrarian economy in the Gupta and post-Gupta period.
7. Discuss in detail the nature and character of economy during early medieval period of Indian history.
8. Analyse critically the different theories used for interpreting the polity and governance of early medieval India.

M.A. Examination, 2024

Semester I

AIHC&A

Course- A5

**(Early Indian Epigraphy and Numismatics from middle of 2000BCE
to1300CE)**

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

*Answer any **four** questions.*

1. Discuss the merits and limitations of inscriptions with suitable examples.
2. Analyze the historical significance of Mahāsthān Mauryan inscription.
3. Sketch the career and achievements of Rudradāman as reflected in the Junāgaḍha record.
4. Who was Harisena? How did he eulogize the conquests of his patron in the Allahabad Pillar inscription?
5. How Punch-marked coins were made and what are their various types?
6. State the various types of coins issued by Kushāṇa rulers.
7. Explain in detail the political, social and religious significance of coins of Gupta rulers.
8. Describe the characteristic features of the coins of the Sātavāhanas.

M.A. EXAMINATION 2024
SEMESTER – I
ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY, CULTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Paper - A.6 Approaches to the Study of Ancient India's Past

TIME: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value

Answer **any four** questions

1. Analyze the characteristics of ancient Indian historical traditions in comparison to those of ancient Greece.
2. Discuss the significance of interdisciplinary approaches in reconstructing the history of early India.
3. Critically evaluate the argument that Ancient India lacked a sense of history. What evidence supports or contradicts this claim?
4. Examine the reliability of ancient Indian texts as historical sources. What challenges do historians face in interpreting these texts?
5. Evaluate the contributions of colonial historians in shaping the study of Ancient India. How did their interpretations influence subsequent history writing of India?
6. Compare and contrast the Nationalist and Marxist approaches to the study of Ancient Indian history.
7. Discuss the limitations of the Orientalist approach in studying Indian history. How does it differ from the Indological approach?
8. What is the impact of modern scientific methods like carbon dating, DNA analysis, and GIS mapping on the study of Ancient Indian history.