

**M.A. Examination 2022**  
Semester II

Department of A.I.H.C.& A.  
Paper/Course: A-7

The Emergence of State in India: Magadh

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Answer any Three questions

1. Discuss the significance of geographical factors in emergence of territories during 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE.
2. Give an account of the political condition of Northern India in 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE.
3. Briefly trace the rise of Magadh to imperial power from 600 BCE to 321 BCE.
4. What were the role of different ideologies in the emergence of state society in Ganga plain during the early historical period.
5. Evaluate the role of Chandragupta Maurya as a conqueror and liberator.
6. Examine the view that Ashoka was primarily responsible for the downfall of the Mauryan Empire.

**M.A. Examination, 2022**

**Semester II**

**AIHC&A**

**Course – A.8**

**(Political Ideas and Institutions from the middle of 2<sup>nd</sup> millenium BCE to 1200 CE)**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

**Answer any three questions**

1. Trace the historiography of the studies on Political Ideas and Institutions of ancient India since pre-Independence period.
2. Discuss the importance of *sabha*, *samiti* and *parishad* in evolution of state. How far do you think it is apt to call them as folk assemblies?
3. Discuss 'Rajdharma' and how the idea of divinity is important for the development of monarchy?
4. How will you define a Mauryan polity? Illustrate your answer on the basis of saptanga theory.
5. Do you think the term 'segmentary state' is applicable to Chola Polity? Give reasons for your answers.
6. Write short notes on any two of the following:
  - a) *Gana rajyas* in post Vedic times.
  - b) Contract theory regarding origin of state.
  - c) *Agrahara* as a proto-feudal element in Gupta polity.
  - d) Mahabharata as a source of ancient Indian polity.

M.A. Examination (2022)

Semester- II

AIHC & A

**Course S.1: Approaches to Archaeological Studies in India**

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

**Questions are of equal value.**

**Answer any three Questions.**

1. How would you define *Itihasa-Purana* tradition? Why is it so important in interpreting Indian culture?
2. Evaluate the contributions made by the establishment of the Asiatic Society in Calcutta in putting Indological studies on a secure footing.
3. Estimate the contributions of Colonel Colin Mackenzie's archaeological discoveries in Peninsular India.
4. Describe the role played by Sir Alexander Cunningham in the development of historical archaeology in India.
5. Give a critical assessment of Sir Mortimer Wheeler's contributions to the development of Indian archaeology.
6. Write short notes on any two of the following:
  - a) Edward Said's Orientalism.
  - b) Sir Robert Bruce Foote's contribution to the prehistory of Peninsular India.
  - c) James Fergusson and architectural surveys.
  - d) Bhau Daji Lad Museum.

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**M.A. Examination, 2022**  
**Semester II**  
**AIHC&A**  
**Course – S-2**  
**(Archaeology: Theory and Techniques)**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

*Answer any three questions*

1. The evolution of theory in Archaeology can be traced back to the Renaissance period. Highlight the early development of theories in the Age of Antiquarianism with special reference to Three - Age System and its aftermath.
2. Discuss the importance of maps and GIS techniques in archaeological explorations. What are the limitations of such techniques in archaeology?
3. Elaborate the parameters that you have keep in mind while doing a surface survey or exploration. Do you think a site/region can be completely understood through surface survey?
4. Suppose while excavating you have come across a bone tool workshop or a bead manufacturing workshop, which method of excavation will you follow for maximum contextual data recovery and why?
5. Archaeology is known to be a multidisciplinary subject. Discuss the role of natural and biological sciences in archaeology.
6. Write short notes on any two of the following:
  - a) Gordon Childe and Culture History.
  - b) Dendrochronology or Tree-Ring Dating.
  - c) Probability sampling methods in Archaeology.
  - d) Recording Procedure of skeleton and grave goods from Megalithic burials.



M.A. Examination, 2022  
Semester II  
AIHC & A  
Course- S7 (Indian Epigraphy and Palaeography)

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

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

1. Discuss the different categories of Aśokan inscriptions highlighting the extent of his empire.
2. Discuss in detail about the inscription which throws light on the religious faith of Aśoka.
3. Critically discuss on what ground the Hāthigumphā inscription is considered as most controversial epigraph of Khāravela?
4. Narrate the brief history of the Sudarśana Lake on the basis of Junāgarh inscription of Rudradaman.
5. How can the political history be understood from the Nāsik inscription of Gautamī Balaśri.
6. Translate any **one** of the following passages into English or Bengali adding explanatory notes.
  - a) Savatā vijitasi devānam piyasā piyadasisā lājine ye cha amta athā Choḍa Paṁdiya Satiyaputo Ketalaputo Tambapaṁni Am̐tiyoge-nāma Yonalājā ye chā am̐ne tasā Am̐tiyogasā sāmamtā lājāno savatā devānam piyasa piyadasisā lājine ḍuve chikisakā kaṭā manusachikisa cha pasuchikisā cha
  - b) Mahārajasya Kaṇishkasya sam 3 he 3 di 22  
etaye purvaye bhikshusya Balasya treṇṇakasya  
Bodhisatvo chhatrayashṭi cha pratishṭhapito

M.A. Examination ,2022

Semester II

AIHC & A

Course S8 (Optional )

Indian Epigraphy and Palaeography II Full Marks:40

Time: 3 hours

Questions are of equal value

Answer Question no. 6 and any two from the rest.

1. Describe different opinions about the origin of the Harappan script.
2. Write an essay on the origin of the Kharoṣṭī script.
3. Narrate the evolution of Brāhmī from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> centuries CE.
4. What do you know about the geographical distribution of Aśokan Brāhmī.
5. Write short notes on any *two* of the followings:-
  - a. Bhaṭṭiprōḷu inscription
  - b. Tamil-Brāhmī
  - c. Siddhamātṛkā
  - d. Nāgarī
6. Transcribe the following passage in Brāhmī:
  - 1.(a) Devānaṃpiye Piyadasi lāja hevaṃ āha (B) saḍuvīṣati-vasābhisitena me iyaṃ dhamma-li[p]i
  - 2 likhāpita (C) hidata-pālate dusaṃpaṭipādaye aṇṇata agāya dhamma-kāmatāya agāya palīkhāy[a]
  - 3 agāya susūsāya aṇa bhayena aṇa usāhena (D) esa chu kho mama anusathiya dhammāpekha
  - 4 dhamma-kāmatā cha suve suve vaḍhita vaḍhisati cheva (E) pulisā pi me ukasā cha gevayā cha majhimā cha anuvidhīyaṃti
  - 5 saṃpaṭipādayaṃti cha alam chapalam samādapayitave (F) hemeva amta-mahāmātā pi (G) sā hi vidhī yā iyaṃ dhammena pālana
  - 6 dhammena vidhāne dhammena sukh[i]yana dhammena gotī ti.

**M.A. Examination, 2022**

**Semester-II**

**AIHC&A**

**Course: S.13 (Optional Paper)**

**Social History of India up to 400 CE**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

Answer **any three** questions

1. What, according to you, are the best sources for reconstructing the social history of early India up to 400 C.E.?
2. Discuss the significance of the term '*Varna-Jati*' for understanding the social history of early India.
3. What was the position of the untouchables in the history of early India?
4. Would you agree that a classical form of slavery existed in ancient India?
5. How the '*Ashrama*' system did regulate the life of an individual in the Brahmanical social order?
6. Discuss the emergence of Buddhist educational centres in early India.

M.A. Examination ,2022

Semester II

AIHC & A

Course S14 (Optional )

Time: 3 hours

Gender Studies: Women in Ancient India

Full Marks:40

Questions are of equal value

Answer Question no. 6 and any two from the rest.

1. Give an account of the historiography of gender studies in the context of early India.
2. How will you evaluate the position of women during the Vedic age ?
3. Write about the ideal picture of women in early Indian literature. Was this ideal accepted by all?
4. Write an essay on widowhood in early India.
5. Discuss the relationship between women and power in early medieval India.
6. Write short notes on any *two* of the followings:-
  - a. *strīdhana*
  - b. *gaṇikā*
  - c. *gāndharva* form of marriage
  - d. *satī*



**M.A. Examination (2022)**  
**Semester- II**  
**AIHC&A**  
**Course – S.25**  
**Architecture I: Proto Historic phase: Stambhas, Stupa and Rock-cut**  
**Architecture**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

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

1. Give a detailed idea of 'space' to understand the metaphorical as well as physical aspect of early Indian architecture.
2. Write a comprehensive note on the town planning and architecture of the Indus valley area.
3. How did the changing religious trends in early historic period shape the pattern of sacred architecture?
4. Scrutinize the stylistic approach of the *Stūpa* architecture at Sāñcī and Amarāvati.
5. Explain the significant features of Caityagrha and Vihāra with particular reference to Ajantā.
6. Why did Udaygiri (MP) emerge as an important site during the Guptas?  
Analyze the rock-cut temple architecture and sculptures of their period.

**M.A. Examination (2022)**  
**Semester- II**  
**AIHC&A**  
**Course – S.26**  
**Architecture II: Temple Architecture (North India)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

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

1. What were the key factors behind the origin of temple building activity in early India?
2. Why was periodization important in the discourse of Indian temple architecture between 300 and 1300 CE? Give supporting evidence to inculcate the idea.
3. Mature phase of Gupta temples in North India influenced the early medieval temple architecture. Explain.
4. What are the main features of Nāgara temple architecture discussed in the canonical texts? Scrutinize the geographical diversification of this category of temples.
5. What are the significant traits of the transitional and mature phase of Brahmanical temple building activity in Oḍiṣā?
6. Discuss the early medieval temple architecture of Kashmir. What is the uniqueness of Mārtaṇḍ Sun Temple that differentiates it from the other temples at Modherā and Koṇārḱ?

M.A. Examination 2023  
Semester II  
Department of AIHC&A  
Paper/ Course, A-7  
The Emergence of State in India: Magadh

Time: 3 Hours

Full marks: 40

**All the questions are of equal value, answer any three questions.**

1. Write a critical note on the important sources available to understand the history of early Magadh region.
2. Briefly narrate the rise of Magadh to imperial power from 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E. to 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E.
3. What were the role of different ideologies in the emergence of state society in Ganga plain during the early historical period?
4. Describe the social and economic life in northern India in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE.
5. "The Kalinga war started a new age in the history of Magadh and India". Explain.
6. Discuss the salient features of Mauryan Administration.

**M.A. Examination, 2023**

**Semester II**

**AIHC&A**

**Course – A.8**

**Political Ideas and Institutions (middle of 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium to 1300 CE)**

**Full Marks: 40**

**Time: Three Hours**

*Questions are of equal value*

***Answer any three questions***

1. Discuss the sources for studying political ideas and institutions in early India.
2. Critically evaluate the recent trends of research on ideas of polity in ancient India.
3. Discuss the theories regarding origin of state and its evolution since Vedic times.
4. Give an account of the theories of kingship. Illustrate your answers with examples.
5. Many scholars consider Gupta polity as proto-feudal polity. Do you agree with this view? Illustrate your answer with examples from Gupta administration.
6. Write short notes on any two of the following:
  - a) Early parishad and vidhata as folk assemblies.
  - b) Importance of *Ur*, *Nadu* and *Nagaram* in Chola polity.
  - c) Importance of *Saptanga* theory in understanding an ideal state.
  - d) Taxation in Mauryan administration



**M.A. Examination, 2023**

**Semester–II**

**AIHC&A**

**Course – S.1**

**Approaches to Archaeological Studies in India**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

Answer *any three* questions

1. Explain the Knowledge of the Orient as seen in the works of the early travellers of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century CE.
2. State the importance of the Asiatic Society in understanding the India's past.
3. Elaborate the contributions of Robert Bruce Foote in Indian Prehistory.
4. Write a detailed note on the contributions of Indologist George Bühler.
5. Describe the role of Mortimer Wheeler in the development of Indian Archaeology.
6. Give an account of the contributions made by Rakhal Das Banerji to the study of Indian Archaeology.

M.A. Examination, 2023  
Semester II  
AIHC & A  
Course- S7 (Indian Epigraphy and Palaeography-I)

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

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

- 1) Discuss the extent of the empire of Aśoka on the basis of his edicts.
- 2) Write in detail about the inscription which throws light on the affiliation of Aśoka to Buddhism.
- 3) Critically discuss the date of Khāravela on the basis of Hāthīgumphā inscription.
- 4) What were the Rudradāman's political gains that you come to know from his Junāgaḍh inscription?
- 5) Narrate the content of the Sāranātha image inscription of Kanishka.
- 6) Translate **any one** of the following passages adding explanatory notes.
  - a) aṭhavaṣābhisiteṣā devānampiyaṣa piyadaṣine lajine kaligya vijita(\*)  
diyaḍhamāte pāṇaṣataṣahaṣe ye taphā apavūṭe sataṣahaṣamāte tata hate  
bahutāvaṇtake vā maṭe(\*) tatā(pa) chha adhunā ladheṣu Kaligeṣu tive  
dhammavaye dhammakāmatā dhammānuṣathi cha devānam piyaṣā
  - b) Saka-Yavana-Pahlava -nisūdanasa dhamopajitakara- viniyagakarasa  
kitāparādhe pi sutujane apāṇahisāruchisa dijāvarakuṭubavivadhanasa-  
Khakharātavasa niravasesakarasa sātavāhanakulayasapatithā pana karasa  
savamaṇḍalā.

M.A. Examination ,2023

Semester II

AIHC & A

Course S8 (Optional )

Time: 3 hours

Indian Epigraphy and Palaeography II

Full Marks:40

Questions are of equal value

Attempt question no. 6 and any two questions from the rest.

1. Write an essay on the Harappan script.
2. Describe different theories on the origin of Brāhmī.
3. What do you know about the geographical distribution of Kharoṣṭī.
4. Narrate the evolution of Brāhmī from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE to the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE.
5. Write short notes on any two of the followings:-
  - a. Bhaṭṭiprōḷu inscription
  - b. Connection between Kharoṣṭī and Aramaic
  - c. Box-headed variety of Brāhmī
  - d. Proto-Bengali script

6. Transcribe the following passage in Brāhmī:

- 1.(A) D[e]vānampriyo Piyadasi rājā evaṁ āha (B) kalānam dukaram (C) ādikaro kalān[a]sa so dukaram karoti
- 2.(D) ta mayā bahu kalānam kataṁ (E) t(a)mama putā cha potā cha param cha tena y[a] me[a]pacham iva samvaṭa kapā anuvatisare tathā
- 3.so sukatam kāsati (F) yo tu eta desam pi hāpesati so [du]katam kāsati (G) sukaram hi pāpa[m] (H)atikātam amtaram
- 4.na bhūta-pruvarṁ dhamma-mahāmātā nāma (I)ta m[a]yā traidasavāsābhi[s]i[tena] dhammamahāmātā katā

**M.A. Examination, 2023**  
**Semester-II**  
**AIHC&A**  
**Course: S.13 (Optional Paper)**  
**Social History of India up to 400 CE**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

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

1. Is it possible to understand adequately the main aspects of society in early India from literary sources alone? Give your valid arguments.
2. Critically examine the major social change, which took place in early India up to 400 CE.
3. Account for the proliferation of *Jati* in early India. Was there a hierarchy among the newly formed caste groups?
4. Write a note on the ideas and concept of untouchability in early India?
5. Discuss in detail the meanings and forms of servitude in early India?
6. Analyse the principles and methods of Brahmanical education system of early India up to 400 CE.



M.A. Examination ,2023

Semester II

AIHC & A

Course S14 (Optional )

Time: 3hours

Gender Studies: Womenin Ancient India

Full Marks-40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any three questions.

- 1.What is Altekarian paradigm? How was it shifted in terms of Gender studies?
2. What is your idea about the womens' condition during the early medieval period?
- 3.Give a description of the eight forms of marriage.
4. Assess the position of women from the donative records of the early historical period.
5. What do you know about the property rights of the women in early India?
- 6.Write short notes on *any two* of the followings:
  - a. *kulastrī*
  - b. *svayamvara*
  - c. *devadāsī*
  - d. Sembiyan Mahādevī

M.A. Examination, 2023  
Semester II  
AIHC&A  
Course- S19 (Special)  
(Vedic Religion and its legacy)

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

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

- 1) Discuss the beliefs and practices of pre-Harappan people in India.
- 2) Do you believe in the concept that Harappan beliefs and practices contain the germs of later Brāhmanical religion? Give reasons for your answer.
- 3) How would you define the term polytheism and anthropomorphism in connection with early Vedic religion?
- 4) Write an essay on the terrestrial deities of early Vedic religion.
- 5) Discuss the role of sacrifice in the life of the early Vedic people.
- 6) How far it is true to say that image worship was prevalent during the early Vedic period?

M.A. Examination ,2023

Semester II

AIHC & A

Course S20 (Optional )

Time: 3hours Evolution of Puranic and Hindu Religious Cults, Rituals and Ideas-I Full Marks-40

Questions are of equal value

Answer any three questions

1. Describe the features of the Later Vedic religion.
2. Narrate the origin and evolution of Rudra-Śiva in the Later Vedic period.
3. Give an overview of the Viṣṇu and Prajāpati.
4. What do you know about the Rājasūya, Vājapeya and Aśvamedha sacrifices?
5. Elaborate the concepts of the 'Brahman' and 'Ātman'.
6. Write short notes on *any two* of the followings:-
  - a. Atharvavedic religion
  - b. Concept of *mokṣa*
  - c. Somayajña
  - d. Varuṇa

**M.A. Examination (2023)**  
**Semester- II**  
**AIHC&A**  
**Course – S.25**  
**Architecture I: Proto Historic phase: Stambhas, Stupa and Rock-cut**  
**Architecture**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

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

1. How canonical texts were important in making different styles of architectures in the early Indian context?
2. Give a brief sketch of three of the important towns in Harappan Culture.
3. Discuss the basic elements of stūpa architecture in the north-western regions of Indian sub-continent.
4. Write a comprehensive note on the *Caitya* and Vihāra of Karle and Bhaja.
5. Discuss in brief the main Jain rock-cut caves in eastern India.
6. Highlight the architectural pattern of the Brahmanical rock-cut caves with particular reference to Elephanta.



**M.A. Examination (2023)**  
**Semester- II**  
**AIHC&A**  
**Course – S.26**  
**Architecture II: Temple Architecture (North India)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

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

1. What were the factors behind the origin of temple building in Indian sub-continent?
2. Scrutinize the early and middle phases of Gupta temple architecture in Northern India.
3. Give a comprehensive note on Nāgara temple architecture with definition and characteristics.
4. Discuss three temples from the formative phase of Odishan temple architecture.
5. What are the changing features of Candella architecture? Explore with two appropriate examples.
6. Write a comprehensive note on the Modhera Sun temple.

## Department of AIHC&A, Visva Bharati

Name of the Examination: M.A. (A.I.H.C & A)

Semester: II, 2024

Subject: The Emergence of State in India: Magadh

Paper/ Course: A - 7

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 40 marks

Questions are of equal value

Answer any FOUR questions

1. Discuss the significance of geographical factors in emergence of territories during 6th century B.C.E.
2. Write a critical note on the important sources available to understand the history of early Magadh region.
3. Define the term 'territory' and what could be the probable reasons for territorial expansion of Magadh Kingdom?
4. What were the role of different ideologies in the emergence of state society in Ganga plain during the early historical period?
5. Evaluate the role of Chandragupta Maurya as a conqueror and liberator.
6. Describe in detail about the administrative structure of the Mauryan Empire.
7. Write a critical note on the the social and religious aspects of common people during period of Ashok.
8. Write a critical note on the opinion that "Ashoka" was primarily responsible for the downfall of the Mauryan Empire".

M.A. Examination, 2024

Semester II

AIHC&A

Course – A.8

Political Ideas and Institutions (middle of 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium to 1300 CE)

Full Marks: 40

Time: Three Hours

*Questions are of equal value*

*Answer any four questions*

1. There are many sources for studying ancient Indian polity and political institutions. What kind of sources are best for studying ancient Indian polity and why? Elaborate with examples.
2. Elaborate the historiography of studies on ancient Indian polity in the pre-independence era citing examples of research works.
3. The early political assemblies are also called folk assemblies by many scholars. How much do you agree with them emphasizing the character of these assemblies with suitable examples?
4. How important is it to understand the concept of divinity in understanding the evolution of monarchy in ancient India?
5. Explain the social contract theory regarding the origin of the state.
6. Is *Saptanga* theory envisaged by Kautilya in *Arthasashtra* an ideal model for understanding the Mauryan state?
7. The Chola Polity is said to be a segmentary one. Give your arguments on it.
8. Write short notes on any two of the following:
  - a. a. Difference between *Rashtra* and *ganasanghas* in ancient India
  - b. Concept of *Rajadharma* in ancient Indian sources
  - c. *Agrahara* landgrant system
  - d. Importance of Temples in Early Medieval Chola Polity

**M.A. Examination, 2024**

**Semester–II**

**AIHC&A**

**Course – S.1**

**Approaches to Archaeological Studies in India**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

Answer **any four** questions

1. Elaborate on the Knowledge of the Orient as seen in the works of the early travellers of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century CE.
2. Describe the contributions of the Asiatic Society in understanding the India's past.
3. Describe the works of Indologist George Bühler.
4. Elaborate on the contributions of Alexander Cunningham to Indian Archaeology.
5. Assess the importance of John Marshall in the study of Indian Archaeology.
6. Critically examine the works of Rajendralal Mitra.
7. Write a comprehensive note on the contributions made by Rakhal Das Banerji to the study of Indian Archaeology.
8. State the contributions of Deccan College to Indian Archaeology.



**M.A. Examination, 2024**  
**Semester II**  
**AIHC&A**  
**Course – S.2**  
**(Archaeology: Theory and Techniques)**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

***Answer four questions taking two from each section***

**Section A**

1. How is the development of archaeological theories related to contemporary philosophical theories and concepts? Illustrate your answer with examples.
2. Would you consider the Three Age System by C.J. Thomsen as a paradigmatic change in the Antiquarian phase of development of the discipline of archaeology?
3. The Antiquity of Humanity is an essential part of the development of archaeology in the world context. Discuss with special emphasis on the development of Palaeolithic Archaeology.
4. Discuss the differences between processual and post processual archaeology with examples. Can post-processual archaeology be considered a rightful critique of processual archaeology?

**Section B**

5. Discuss the importance of remote sensing and GIS techniques in field archaeology.
6. Mortimer Wheeler's vertical excavation method is good for understanding the site's chronology. Discuss, evaluating the merits and demerits of the method.
7. How experimental archaeology and ethnoarchaeology can be considered important field research strategies to interpret the archaeological record and context in a meaningful way?
8. Write short notes on any two of the following:
  - a) Harris Matrix method citing an example of your choice with graphical illustrations.
  - b) Systematic Sampling methods (Any two with drawings).
  - c) Relative Dating Methods (Any two with examples).
  - d) Post excavation study of artefacts.



M.A. Examination, 2024  
Semester II  
AIHC&A  
Course- S.7 (Special)  
**Indian Epigraphy and Palaeography I**

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

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

1. Who was James Prinsep? Discuss the contribution of James Prinsep in the field of epigraphy.
2. Explain the nature of Aśoka's dhamma on the basis of his edicts.
3. Narrate the content of Bairat inscription of Aśoka. What light does this inscription throw on Aśoka as a Buddhist?
4. Discuss the date of Chedi king Khāravela on the basis of historical events mentioned in the Hāthigumphā inscription.
5. Highlight the historical importance of Sārnāth inscription of the time of Kanishka I?
6. What light does the Junāgaḍh inscription throw upon Rudradaman's relationship with the Sātavāhanas and Yaudheyas?
7. Discuss the historical value of the Nāsik Praśasti of Gautamī Balaśrī.
8. Analyze the importance of seals and sealings as a source for reconstructing the history of early India.

M.A. Examination, 2024

Semester II

AIHC&A

S 8 (Optional Paper)

Indian Epigraphy and Palaeography II

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 40

*Questions are of equal value*

Answer Question no. 8 and any *three* from the rest.

1. Discuss the opinion of K.V.Ramesh about the origin of Brāhmī.
2. Can you trace any missing link between the Harappan script and the Brāhmī?
3. Write an essay on the geographical distribution of Kharoṣṭī.
4. Narrate the evolution of Brāhmī from the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE.
5. What do you know about the Kharoṣṭī-Brāhmī script of early Bengal?
6. Describe the features of the Aśokan Brāhmī script.
7. Write short notes on *any two* of the followings:
  - a. Box-headed variety of Brāhmī
  - b. Tamil-Brāhmī
  - c. Siddhamāṭṭkā
  - d. Proto-Bengali
8. Transcribe the following passage in Brāhmī:

1(A) atikātaṃ aṃtaraṃ rājāno vihāra-yātaṃ ṇayāsu (B) eta magavyā añani cha etārisani

2. abhīramakāni ahumsu (C) so Devānaṃpriyo Piyadasi rāja dasa varsābhisito saṃto ayāya Saṃbodhiṃ

3. (D) tenesadhamma yātā (E) etayaṃ hoti bāmaṇa-samaṇānaṃ dasane cha dāne cha thairānaṃ dasane ch[a]

4. hiraṃna-paṭividdhāno cha jānapadasa cha jaṇasa aspanaṃ dhammānus[a]ṣṭī cha dhama-paripucchā cha

5. tadopayā (F) esā bhuya rati bhavati Devānaṃpiyasa Priyadasino rāṇo bhā[g]e aññe

M.A. Examination, 2024  
Semester II  
AIHC&A  
Course- S19 (Special)  
(Vedic Religion and its legacy)

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

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

1. Define the term 'Religion'. Discuss the Sociologist's interpretation of the term 'Religion'.
2. Give a brief survey of the beliefs and practices of the Prehistoric people of Indian sub-continent with special reference to totemism and cannibalism.
3. Discuss the three paradigms of Harappan Religion with suitable examples.
4. Write a brief note on the ritualistic practices of the Indus Valley people.
5. How the concept of Mother Goddess of Harappan culture is interpreted by the modern Scholars? Do you think it has any connection with later Hinduism?
6. What are the salient features of Vedic religion that are found in the four Vedas?
7. Write a short note on Rgvedic Gods?
8. Discuss in detail the religious similarities between Rgveda and the Avesta.



**M.A. Examination, 2024**

**Semester- II**

**AIHC & A**

**Course- S.20 (Evolution of Puranic and Hindu Religious Cults, Rituals and Ideas-I)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

Answer *any four* questions

1. What are the main sources of information about the Later Vedic Period?
2. Do you think Later Vedic Religion was different from Early Vedic Religion? Explain it with suitable examples.
3. Write a detailed note on Later Vedic Gods and explain how Rigvedic Gods lost their significance during this period.
4. What is Yajña? What was its importance during the Vedic Period?
5. Discuss the religious practices that were performed during the Atharvaveda.
6. What is the concept of Atman and Brahman?
7. Explain the idea of Saṃsāra and Moksha.
8. Evaluate the importance of Upanishads to understand the Indian Religious History.

**M.A. Examination, 2024**

**Semester- II**

**AIHC & A**

**Course- S. 25 (Architecture I: Proto Historic Phase: Stambhas, Stupa and Rock-cut Architecture)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

Answer *any four* questions

1. Write a note on the origin and development of Religious Architecture in the Ancient India.
2. Evaluate the Indus town planning by comparing the cities of Harappa and Dholavira.
3. What is Stūpa Architecture? Discuss its development in different phases.
4. Write an essay on the Great Stūpa of Sañchī.
5. Discuss the history of rock-cut caves from the beginning to 7<sup>th</sup> Century CE.
6. Explain the Chaitya architecture in the light of Lomas Rishi Cave and Sudāma Cave.
7. Write a comprehensive note on Udaygiri and Khaṇḍagiri caves from Odisha.
8. Write short note on any two rock-cut caves:
  - a) Elephanta
  - b) Ellora
  - c) Aihole
  - d) Udaygiri (Madhya Pradesh)



**M.A. Examination, 2024**

**Semester–II**

**AIHC&A**

**Course – S.26**

**Architecture II: Temple Architecture (North India)**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

Answer *any four* questions

1. Trace the origin and development of temple building activity in Ancient India.
2. Write in detail about the contents related to temple architecture given in the text *Aparājitapṛchhā*.
3. Write in detail about the Gupta temple architecture with suitable examples.
4. Elaborate on the characteristic features of the Gop Temple.
5. Highlight the various components of the Modhera Temple.
6. Write a comprehensive note on Kandariya Mahādeva temple.
7. Describe the characteristic features of the Mārtanḍa Temple.
8. Critically assess the Kalinga style of architecture with suitable examples.

DEPARTMENT OF ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY CULTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

M.A. Examination 2025

Semester II

The Emergence of State in India: Magadh

Paper/ Course- A.7

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

**Questions are of equal value**

**Answer any Four questions**

01. Write a critical note on the important sources available to understand the history of early Magadh region.
02. Briefly narrate the rise of Magadh to an Imperial power from 600 BCE to 321 BCE.
03. What were the role of different ideologies in the emergence of state society in Ganga plain during the early historical period?
04. Describe the social and economic life in northern India in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BCE.
05. Evaluate the role of Chandragupta Maurya as a conqueror and liberator.
06. Discuss the salient features of Mauryan Administration.
07. "The Kalinga war started a new era in the history of Magadh and India", Evaluate the statement critically.
08. Critically evaluate the opinion that King Ashoka was primarily responsible for the downfall of the Mauryan Empire.

**M.A. Examination, 2025**

**Semester II**

**AIHC&A**

**Course – A.8**

**Political Ideas and Institutions (middle of 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium to 1300 CE)**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

*Answer any four questions*

1. Discuss the recent trends and research for understanding ancient Indian political ideas and institutions.
2. How far do you think the ancient Indian sources help us to understand ancient Indian political institutions?
3. Discuss the characteristics and importance of ganarajyas in post-Vedic times.
4. How far is the saptanga theory important for understanding the monarchical state in ancient India?
5. Discuss the various theories on the origin of state.
6. How would you characterize Mauryan polity? Give reasons for your answer.
7. The Gupta polity is known as proto feudal polity. Discuss.
8. Write **short notes** on the following:
  - a. Comparative study of sabha and samiti
  - b. Concept of divinity in kingship

**M.A. Examination, 2025**

**Semester-II**

**AIHC&A**

**Course – S.1**

**Approaches to Archaeological Studies in India**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

Answer **any four** questions

1. Write a comprehensive note on Itihās-Purāṇa tradition in India.
2. Discuss the various works of Colonel James Todd.
3. Elaborate the contribution of George Bühler in the field of Indology.
4. Describe the role of Mortimer Wheeler in field archaeology.
5. What role Robert Bruce Foote played in shaping India's Prehistory.
6. Critically evaluate the works of James Burgess.
7. Give an account of contribution made by John Marshall in Indian Archaeology.
8. Elaborate on the contributions made by Deccan College in the field of Indian Archaeology with special reference to H. D. Sankalia.

**M.A. Examination, 2025**  
**Semester II**  
**AIHC&A**  
**Course – S.2**  
**(Archaeology: Theory and Techniques)**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

**Answer four questions**

1. Discuss the importance of Gordon Childe and culture history paradigm.
2. Discuss the Age of Antiquarianism with special emphasis on researches done on Classical Archaeology.
3. Discuss the various researches on the development of idea of a prehistoric past and antiquity of humanity.
4. Why do we call processual archaeology as new archaeology? Discuss how it is known as the paradigm change in the discipline of archaeology.
5. A systematic exploration is always important in archaeological fieldwork. Elaborate
6. Suppose you are asked to excavate a town site, then which method of excavation will you follow and why?
7. Why recording is very important aspect of excavation? Illustrate your answer with examples.
8. Write short notes on any two of the following:
  - a) Sondage
  - b) Critique of Three Age System
  - c) Merits and demerits of vertical excavation
  - d) Absolute Dating Methods (Any two)



M.A. Examination, 2025  
Semester II  
AIHC&A  
Course- S7 (Special)  
(Indian Epigraphy and Palaeography)

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

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

1. Why the period from 1835-1860 is called an 'era of decipherment' in the history of epigraphic study? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Explain the nature of Aśoka's dhamma in the light of his edicts.
3. Analyze the importance of Bairat Rock Edict of Aśoka.
4. Give an assessment of the political and cultural achievements of Khāravēla on the basis of the Hathīgumphā Inscription.
5. Write a brief history of the Sudarśana Lake on the basis of the inscription you have studied.
6. What light does the Nasik inscription of Gautamī Balaśrī throw on the political gains of his illustrious son?
7. Critically review the contents of the Sārnāth inscription of the time of Kanishka.
8. Define the term seals and sealings of early India. Do they help us in reconstructing the political and administrative history of early India?

M.A. Examination ,2025

Semester II

AIHC & A

Course S8 (Optional )

Time: 3 hours

Indian Epigraphy and Palaeography II

Full Marks:40

Questions are of equal value

Attempt question no. 8 and any three questions from the rest.

1. Write an essay on the origin of writing in early India.
2. Is there any relation between the Semitic scripts and Brāhmī?
3. What do you know about the origin of Kharoṣṭī.
4. Comment on the geographical distribution of Aśokan Brāhmī.
5. Write about the features of Brāhmī from the 300 CE to 600 CE.
6. Narrate the features of Siddhamātrkā and Proto-Bengali
7. Write short notes on any two of the followings:-

- a. Harappan script
- b. Bhaṭṭiprōḷu inscription
- c. Kharoṣṭī-Brāhmī
- d. Nāgarī

8. Transcribe the following passage in Brāhmī:

- 1.(A) Devānaṃpiyo Piyadasi r[ā]jā evaṃ āha (B) dbādasa-vāsābhisitena maya idam āñ[a]pitaṃ
- 2.(C) sarvata vijite mama yutā cha rājuke cha prādesike cha pañchasu pañchasu ta vāsesu anūsam-
- 3.y[ā]na[m n]iyātu etā yeva athāya imāya dhammānūsastīya yathā añā-
- 4.ya pi kammāy[a] (D) [s]ādhu mātari cha pitari cha susrūsā mitra-samstuta ñātīnaṃ bāmhana
5. samañānaṃ sādhu[ d]ānaṃ prāñānaṃ sādhu anārambho apa-vyayatā apa-bhādatā sādhu
- 6.(E) pariṣā pi yute añāpayisati gaṇanāyaṃ hetuto cha vyaṃjanato cha.

**M.A. Examination, 2025**

**Semester- II**

**AIHC & A**

**Course- S.13 (Social History of India upto 400 CE)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

Answer *any four* questions

1. What are the major literary sources for reconstructing the social history of Ancient India?
2. How do archaeological findings contribute to enhance our understanding of Ancient Indian Society?
3. What is the difference between the concepts of *Varna* and *Jati* in Ancient Indian society?
4. What were the social and religious justifications given for untouchability in Ancient India?
5. Discuss the concept of Slavery in Ancient India and how it was different from other Ancient Civilizations?
6. Explain the concept of *Asrama* system and its importance in the Ancient Indian Society.
7. What was the position of women in Ancient Indian Society? Analyze critically.
8. What were the major occupations in ancient India and how were they divided along caste or gender lines?

M.A. Examination ,2025

Semester II

AIHC & A

Course S14 (Optional )

Gender Studies: Women in Ancient India

Full Marks-40

Time: 3 hours

Questions are of equal value

Answer any four questions.

1. What is Altekarian paradigm? How was it shifted in terms of Gender studies?
2. How did the condition of women figure in Arthaśāstra?
3. Give a description of the eight forms of marriage. What are the criteria of 'svayamvara'?
4. Evaluate the position of women in India from the 200 BCE to 300 CE.
5. Comment on the status of temple-women in early India.
6. Why and how was Rudramādevī able to capture political power in early-medieval Andhra? How did she represent herself as a ruler?
7. What was the relationship between women and Bhakti movement in south India?
8. Write short notes on *any two* of the followings:
  - a. *dāsī*
  - b. *pativratā*
  - c. *niyoga*
  - d. *strīdhana*

M.A. Examination, 2025  
Semester II  
AIHC&A  
Course- S19 (Special)  
(Vedic Religion and its legacy)

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 40

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

1. Define the term 'Religion'? What are the definitions of religion according to the theologians?
2. Give an overview of beliefs and practices of prehistoric people in ancient India.
3. Analyse the statement of John Marshall that 'Indus Valley Civilization bears the germ of Hinduism' in the context of beliefs and practices with suitable evidences.
4. Discuss the salient features of Vedic religion on the basis of Rgvedic text.
5. Discuss the various theories regarding the image worship in Vedic texts.
6. Write a brief note on the views of Materialists in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE.
7. Give an account of the religious and philosophic ideas as found in the Brahmana and Āraṇyaka texts.
8. Discuss the fundamental principles of Upanishads. Do you think that it was a revolt against the sacrificial rites and rituals of the later Vedic age?



**M.A. Examination, 2025**

**Semester- II**

**AIHC & A**

**Course- S.20 (Evolution of Puranic and Hindu Religious Cults, Rituals and Ideas-I)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

Answer *any four* questions

1. What are the key features that distinguish Later Vedic religion from Early Vedic religion?
2. In what ways did socio-political changes influence Later Vedic religious developments?
3. How do the gods of the Later Vedic period differ from those of the Rigvedic period?
4. What are the different types of *Yajñas* mentioned in the Later Vedic literature?
5. What role do magical and healing practices play in Atharvavedic religious thought?
6. Explain the concepts of *Brahman* and *Atman* as articulated in the Later Vedic Period.
7. How do the ideas of *Samsara* and *Moksha* develop in the Upanishadic tradition?
8. What is the significance of Upanishadic philosophy in the broader context of Indian religious history?

**M.A. Examination, 2025**

**Semester- II**

**AIHC & A**

**Course- S.25 (Architecture I: Proto Historic Phase: Stambhas, Stupa and Rock-cut Architecture)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

Answer *any four* questions

1. How does the concept of '*Vastu*' influence the design and layout of Ancient Indian structures?
2. What were the major features of town planning in Indus Valley cities like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa?
3. What do the layout and architecture of residential and public buildings in the Indus Valley reveal about their social organization?
4. What is the significance of the Great Bath, granaries, and assembly halls in Indus Valley architecture?
5. How did the *stupa* evolve from a simple burial mound to a religious monument in Buddhism?
6. What are the major features of *stupas* in Central India? Analyze these features on the basis of Sāñchī and Bharhut Stupas.
7. How did *Chaityagrihas* and *Vihāras* evolve architecturally during the **Theravāda** and **Mahāyāna** phases of Buddhism?
8. What are the distinctive features of Jaina rock-cut architecture in Udayagiri and Kharḍagiri caves?

**M.A. Examination, 2025**  
**Semester- II**  
**AIHC&A**  
**Course – S.26**  
**Architecture II: Temple Architecture (North India)**

**Time: 3 Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*  
Answer **any four** questions

1. What were the factors behind the origin of temple building in the Indian sub-continent?
2. What do you understand by the concept of space? Discuss the materiality of space in the context of temple architecture.
3. How do Vāstu Śāstras hold a pivotal part in constructing the textual and visual memory of a temple? Explain.
4. The mature phase of Gupta temples in North India influenced the early medieval temple architecture. Explain.
5. Why is periodization crucial to Indian temple architecture? Analyse the first two phases of Gupta temple architecture.
6. Explore the key features of a mature Odishan temple architecture with appropriate examples.
7. Write a comprehensive note on the two Sun temples from the western and northernmost regions of India.
8. Write short notes on **any two** of the following:
  - a. Sāñcī temple No. 17 and Eran.
  - b. Geographical variations of *Nāgara* architecture.
  - c. Paraśurāmeśvara temple.
  - d. *Teli-kā Mandir*, Gwalior.