

Department of History
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, C.G.

Model Answer Semester Exam- November 2013

Class: B.A. 1st Semester

Paper: BH-1.2 History of India from Shunga Dynasty to Gupta Dynasty

Paper Code: AS - 2708

Section- A (Objective Type Questions)

- I. Pushyamitra Shunga
- II. 30 (Matsyapurana) and 19 (Vayupurana) for 300 years
- III. The Shaka ruler who ruled in about 130-150 A.D. a Ujjaini
- IV. Kushanas (Vim Kadaphisus)
- V. Vicent A Smith
- VI. Fa-hian (399-414 A.D.)
- VII. Vishnugupta and Shivgupta II
- VIII. Skandgupta
- IX. The administrative officers in Gupta period deputed by the king
- X. Manu - 07 and Narad – 15

Section- B (Descriptive Type Questions)

2. The answer shall be oriented to the personality and achievements of Pushyamitra as the founder of Shunga dynasty. He was not only the founder of a new dynasty but also a revivalist of Hinduism. His efforts as a ruler are also noticeable in the view of political unity of the contemporary India. His conflicts with the Greeks and Vidarbha state mark his empire more consolidated. Administrative system was also revived. Moreover his religious policies which are regarded as a marking an early stage in the Brahmanical reaction. In this way his political achievements, military expeditions, administrative organizations, religious policies and social welfare works are to be discussed in detail.

3. The emergence of a new state in Deccan was more noticeable in the history of India particularly South India. The answer shall be confined to the political history of Satvahana dynasty in a chronological order. While highlighting the origin of Satvahana their history from Simuk to the last ruler shall be discussed in brief. The achievements of Shatkarni I, Gautamiputra Shakarni, Vashishthiputra Pulmayi and Yajnashri Shatkarni need to be elaborated. At last a conclusion from the candidate shall complete the answer.
4. The answer shall start with the discussion on origin of Shakas. As the Scythians were originally from Central Asia their political history before coming to India needs to be elaborated in brief. It will give some light upon the question that who were the Shakas or Scythians. In India they spread in almost all north and western parts and hence are known as the Northern and Western Kshatrapas respectively. The history of western Kshatrapas in the form of two ruling dynasties as the Kshaharat dynasty of Nasik and Chashtan dynasty of Ujjaini is to be explained in detail. Different rulers like Nahapan, Rudradaman ect. In the light of their achievements need to be discussed in detail.
5. The Kushanas played a very important role in the reunification of India after Mauryans. The political unity provided the Kanishka a platform to become the first Indo-Asiatic ruler. The answer to the question shall comprise of the contribution of Kushanas in the field of polity, culture, economy and administration. Distribution of political units, feudal system, their life style and wearing all made some impact to the Indian society and culture. Their assimilation into the Indian society in the form of second Kshatrya marks the exchange of different culture. Introduction of the coin economy by the Kushanas and issue of Gold coins reflects the economic conditions of contemporary India. At last the answer shall complete with a conclusion by the candidate.
6. The discussion over the issue of origin of Gupta as they belong to which class and which place is the main essence of the answer. On the basis of different sources

produced by different scholars their origin is to be discussed. Their belongings with the Brahman, kshatriya, Vaishya and Lower Class i.e. Sudra is under debate and need to be explained along with some sources. Likewise on the question of their original home as from which place they belong is under debate. The explanation to this need to be given on the basis of sources and findings from different regions like Gangetic plain, Bihar, Bengal, Malwa and others. A conclusion on the basis of such discussion shall end the answer.

7. While dealing with the political history of Gupta dynasty in the form of introduction part the achievements and career of the two Gupta rulers i.e. Kumargupta and Skandagupta is to be discussed in detail. The answer shall be supported with the sources available for the history of these two rulers. The consolidation of empire as inherited from the ancestors in its own form along with the administrative set up has been the considerable point for the two. The conflict with the Pushyamitras and Hunas and the victory over these marks their military achievements. To complete the answer some of their social welfare works and diplomatic relations are also the points of elaboration.
8. The culture during Gupta period has been a very important segment of their historical analysis. The answer to the question shall include the description of the contemporary political unity, diplomatic relations and the military strength which resulted into the growth of various elements. The social conditions, the life of common people, economic prosperity of the state on the one hand and the condition of religion i.e. Dharma, the method and philosophy of worship, growth of Art and Architecture in the form of temples, vihars and sculpture, development in the field of education, literature, philosophy as well as science and technology on the other hand mark the history of Gupta as the golden period of Indian history. At last the conclusion shall be comprised of the critical evaluation of the theme.

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