

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
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Model Answer of Semester Examination-2013

CLASS: B.A. HISTORY (1st SEMESTER)

PAPER: BH 1.1 HISTORY OF INDIA FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO THE MAURYAN PERIOD (I)

PAPER CODE: AS-2707

SECTION A - OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

1. i) Megasthenes
ii) Ashoka
iii) Fourth (4) Chapter
iv) Jabalpur
v) Ashoka's Pillar
vi) Right Faith, Right Knowledge, Right Conduct
vii) Behistun, Persepolis, Nakshatras
viii) 13th Rock Edict (Kalinga Rock Edict)
ix) 30 Members
x) Four Provinces – Herat, Kandhar, Kabul, Gandhara.

SECTION B – DESCRIPTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

2. THE LITERARY AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOURCES OF INDIAN HISTORY –

History is considered as the theory/doctrine, which gives the information regarding the past events. The answer shall be oriented to discuss first on the literary source of Indian History, under this source Brahmin literature, Extra Brahmin literature and Secular literature. On the other hand Archeological source i.e. Inscriptions, Coins, Seals etc. shall be discussed. Finally conclusion shall be written.

3. REASONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DOWNFALL OF HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION-

About 5000 years ago, some people from the Eastern foothills of Baluchistan, started moving into the river valleys of the Indus and Saraswati. They settled in various sites of these valleys. Hence slowly and gradually, they evolved a civilization called as the Harappan or the Indus Valley Civilization. These are some reasons which were responsible for the downfall of Harappan Civilization such as Change of climate, degraded city life, Natural catastrophe, Deforestation and neglect of dams, and Aryan invasion etc. because of these and there are some other reasons which were responsible for the downfall of the Civilization.

4. THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF ARYANS-

According to Prof. Max Muller, Central Asia was the original home of the Aryans. From here only they spread into Europe through Asia Minor and some migrated to India through the North-West. The answer shall be oriented mainly to discuss on the Social and Economic conditions of Aryans. In the Social condition of Aryans emphasis should be given to the condition of women, dress and clothing, food, leisure and caste system etc. on the other hand in the Economic condition, in the Rig Vedic period the whole economic life was rural rather than urban, in other words the village being the centre piece of society. As well agriculture was the main occupation. Every family had its own cultivated land. In this period the wealth of a man was determined by the number of cows. Utensils, instruments and ornaments are mentioned. People were familiar with copper and bronze. The chief medium of transport was the ratha/chariot.

5. REASONS BEHIND THE RISE OF MAGADHA EMPIRE-

Magadha state was one of the most powerful states among the 16 Mahajanapadas. Following are the various reasons behind the rise of Magadha empire such as the Geographical condition of the state, Fertile land, Well economic condition, Politically united, Well administrative set up, Powerful kings, Use of Iron weapons, Centre of middle Gangetic plain, Military organization (first used Elephants in war) etc., these major points shall be expected to write from the students in this question.

6. RISE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS SECTS DURING 6th CENTURY BC-

In the 6th Century BC, there are various reasons which were responsible for the rise of various sects mainly Jainism, Buddhism and so on. It is considered that during those periods around 65 different sects arose. Thus, following reasons were more responsible - Vedic rites had become very complicated and rituals were expensive, Domination of Brahmins and they monopolized religion, Use of difficult and outdated language in religious ceremonies, Reaction against the Vedic Brahman Religion because of superstitions, dogmas, and rituals etc.; Vedic philosophy lost its original purity; Supremacy of Brahmins etc; Complexity of Vedic religion etc.

7. COMPARATIVE ACCOUNT OF JAINISM AND BUDDHISM-

Jainism is founded by Mahavira. The answer shall be written first of all regarding the teachings i.e. Triratna, Pancha Mahavrata, Five means of Knowledge etc., then the Theory of May be of Jainism as at last about the chief features of Jainism. Gautama Buddha is considered as the profounder of Buddhism. Then more important portion to deal with the doctrine of Buddhism i.e. Four noble truth, Triratna, Ashthangik marga etc., as well their philosophical views such as Theory of Cause-Effect, Theory of Momentariness', and Theory of Middle path. Then chief features of both the religions shall be oriented to discuss finally conclusion.

8. REASONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DOWNFALL OF MAURYAN EMPIRE-

The first great Indian empire that gave the nationalist impulse and unity didn't survive long after the death of Ashoka. Within 50 years after Ashoka, the empire exhausted itself and started to decline. Following are some reasons which were responsible for the downfall of the Mauryan empire – Weak successors of Ashoka, Semi-independent states of Mauryan empire, Oppression and torture by the Mauryan officials, Factions and squabbles among ministers, Economic cause, Militant Brahmanical reaction and Ashoka's own responsibility etc. thus, finally a powerful empire collapsed.

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