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(For filling by Examiners only)

S.No.	Max. mark	Max. Obtained	S.No.	Max. mark	Max. Obtained
1.	10		11.	15	
2.	10		12.	15	
3.	10		13.	15	
4.	10		14.	15	
5.	10		15.	15	
6.	10		16.	15	
7.	10		17.	15	
8.	10		18.	15	
9.	10		19.	15	
10.	10		20.	15	

Total Marks Obtained: .....

Mentor's Comments:

- Note:
1. This booklet is to be used for attempting assessment tests and revision tests only.
  2. This page needs to be attached as first page of every uploaded test.

Q1.

The level of excellence of Mauryan kingdom was ahead of its time and still relevant to present India. Discuss. (10M)

Mauryan empire starting from 3rd BCE was truly the first empire in ancient India and made numerous contributions in various fields ranging from foreign politics to religion.

### EXCELLENCE OF MAURYAN KINGDOM AND RELEVANCE

1) Foreign policy - ambassadors like Seleucus I in court of Chandragupta Maurya - maintained relations with Greece.

↳ similarly our foreign policy today have evolved to include embassies of various countries.

2) Planning and administration

↳ followed system of town planning

↳ range of officials for administration purposes and collecting taxes.

↳ similarly urban planning, bureaucracy, tax dept exist today

3) Religious tolerance - Chandragupta Maurya converted to Jainism, Ashoka's Dhamma policy

↳ India's secular approach to religion enshrined in constitution.

4) Justice - Chanakya's 'Arthashastra' mentions how impartial justice system evolved

↳ similarity institution of judiciary in India

5) Policy implementation - through bureaucrats - similar to civil service

6) standing army - similar to army that exists today though on a wider scale.

7) Promotion of architecture - court art like stupa, pillars and other popular art

↳ revered still today, stupas are worshipped and give insight into past.

Therefore, Mauryan times were truly ahead of its time in terms of its achievements

Q2.

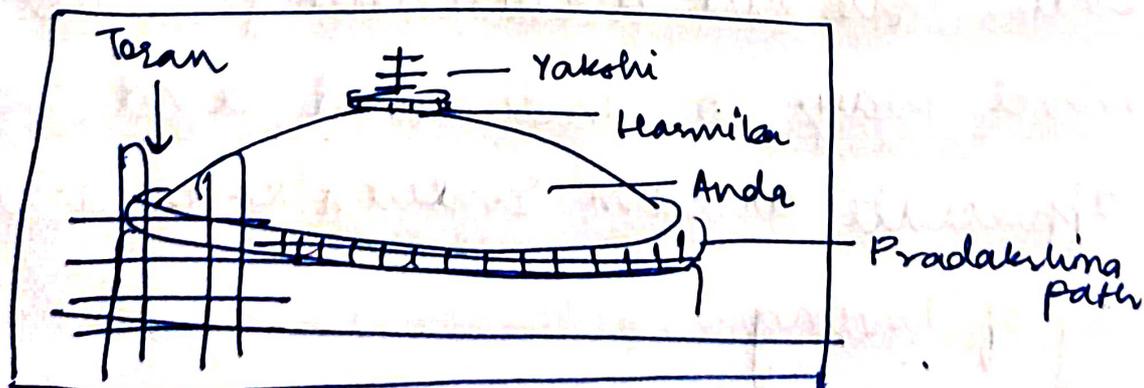
The rock cut architecture presents one of the most imp sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. (10M)

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Rock cut architecture involved method of chiselling and moulding rocks to create magnificent structures and have prevailed over ages.

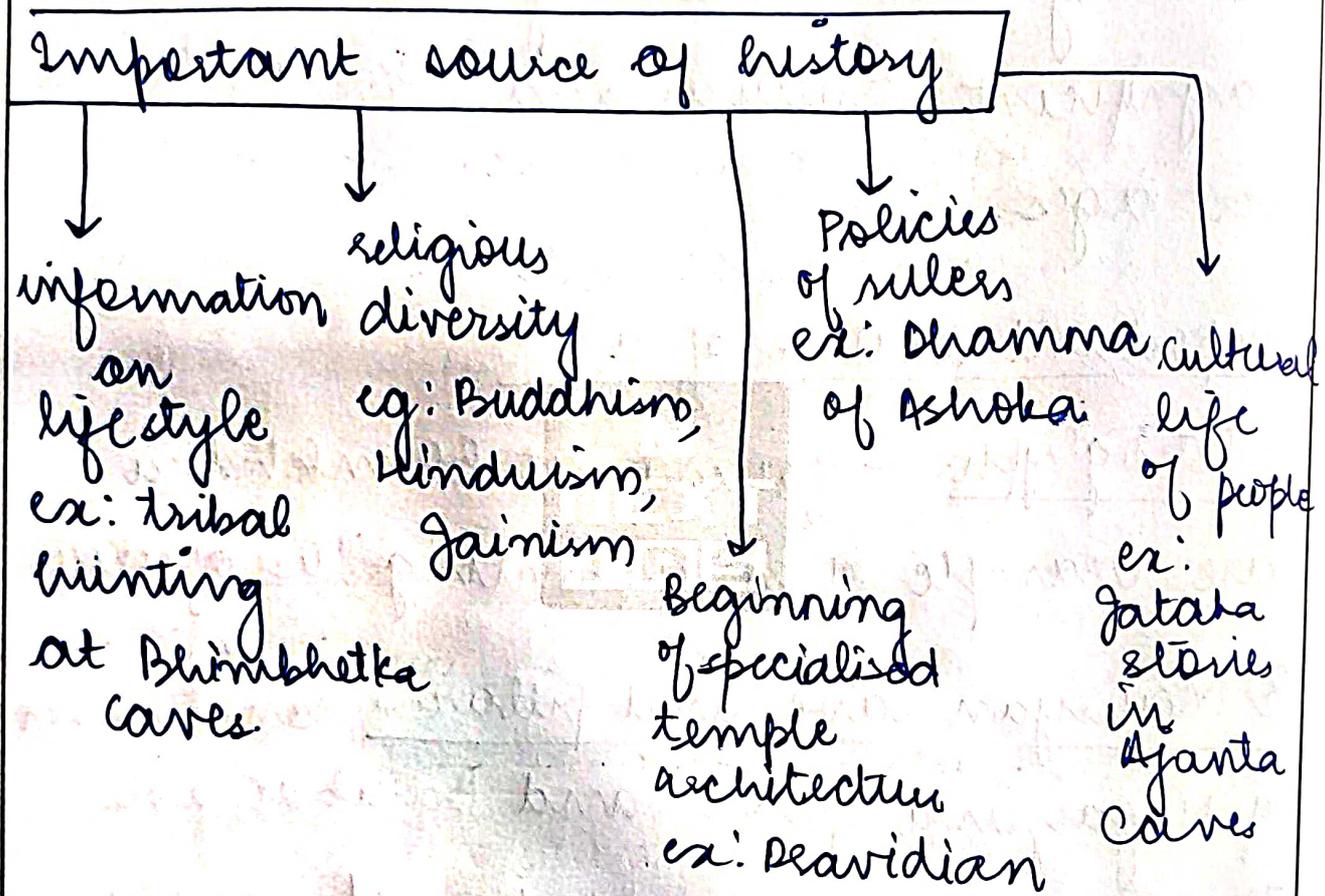
Important source of art :-

- 1) Petroglyphs - found at Bhimbhethka are example of early paintings, use of colours.
- 2) Mauryan caves and pillars - construction of Nagayuna caves and Barabar caves
- 3) Stupas - built by Ashoka at sanchi, Karla caves etc.



Stupa at sanchi

- 4) Mural paintings at Ajanta and rock cut temple at Ellora during Gupta age
- 5) Rock cut temples of Mahabalipuram by Pallavas - showing Dravidian art.



Thus, rock cut architecture presented novel ways to understand and appreciate ancient Indian lives and way of living.

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Q3.

though not very useful from point of view of connected political history, Sangam literature portrays social - eco conditions of its time with vividness. Comment. (10M)

Sangam literature dating from 3c BC to 2c AD provides vivid description of the socio-economic life in southern India by providing accounts from ethics, morality, art and administration.

### PORTRAYAL OF SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITION

- 1) Women as members and contributors in sangam society. [Ex] - Aritakum poem on female prowess.
  - 2) Moral ethics to be followed were also codified in Ettugai & Pathipatrakimmani.
  - 3) Division of society into different classes such as anthavar, arasar (king), vellalar (agriculturist), vanigar (commerce)
- ↳ Therefore, not sure if vedic division as per Purushsukta was known.

- 4) Economic conditions mentioned in Pusarank
  - ↳ Depiction of foreign trade
  - ↳ Sign of Kaikalani Chola as a wealthy ruler
- 5) Port city of Puhar mentioned in Silapadikaram
- 6) Epics on love such as Silapadikaram, Manimekalai showed acceptance and openness of society to relationship
- 7) Tolkapiyam gave description of land into 6 categories :- mandam, neydal, kurinji, palai, etc.
- 8) Chronology of 3 kingdoms - Chera, Chola and Pandya along with their sign mentioned in these books.

Thus, Sangam literature provides deep insights into ancient society in southern India.

Q4.

The fabric of Indian philosophical thought owes much to northern and southern India. Elucidate.

Indian philosophical thought has ~~seen~~ a continuous evolution since the time of Vedas with thinkers of each school of thought contributing profusely to it, making it more diverse and robust.

### Contribution of North India :-

- 1) Advent of Vedic philosophy - 4 Vedas, Upanishads, Brahmanas etc.
- 2) Epics such as Mahabharat and Ramayan and Puranas
- 3) Alternate religious beliefs such as Buddhism and Jainism which challenged Vedic life - added elements of nirvana, simplicity, compassion and equality.
- 4) Vedanta philosophy and its different schools - thinkers like Ramanuja, Kabir, Vallabhacharya - on Brahman and inner self.
- 5) Bhakti saints such as Nanak, Kabir, Meera - contributed to spread of

love, devotion and nirguna bhakti -  
opposing caste differences.

6) Development and patronage to different  
Sufi schools by Mughal rulers - eg - Chishti  
Silsilah.

### Development in south India

1) Siddha school of tantra and healing

2) & Tamil shraiva tradition - which  
focus on union of Brahman and self

3) Rise of Vedanta philosophy by Adi-  
Shankaracharya (Kerala)

4) Alvars and Nayanas saints preached  
Vaishnavism and shraivism.

5) Bhakti tradition started first here  
by saints such as Basavanna, Andal,  
Nimbarka etc.

Thus, a composite Indian philosophy  
is the synthesis of different schools  
of thought from different parts of country

05.

How did ancient trade routes connecting India to foreign countries contribute to exchange and dissemination of culture? (10M)

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India has been connected to different parts of the world through land and sea routes since time immemorial. These paths have been exploited for development of trade, art, literature, religion etc.

### CONTRIBUTION TO CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND DISSEMINATION:-

1) Ashoka spread Dhamma policy and Buddhism to sei Lanka called Swam Sweep.

2) Trade routes in south India to south east asia such as Indonesia etc. - used for trade. Ports such as Tondi <sup>in TN</sup> mentioned in sangam literature

↳ Chola kings also exchanged embassies and captured parts of S-E Asia.

3) In Korea - Philosophies such as Dhyana lopa find mention.

4) spread of teachings and exchange of scholars :- Nalanda, Vikramshila Universities often had huge influx of teachers from Tibet, Bhutan, China etc.

5) Silk route - one of the most important trade routes which not only helped in trade but also exchange of literature, culture

6) Foreign travellers from different parts

↳ Chinese pilgrims such as Fa Hei and Huen Tsang

↳ Later through West Asia and Arab states many travellers like Al Masudi, Ibn-Battuta etc.

↳ Using ancient sea routes, later Europeans like Marco Polo, Nicolo Conti

- Helped in gaining perspectives of the world and disseminating information on India.

Therefore, ancient routes provided a gateway for cultural exchange and learning.

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Q6. How does the archaeological evidence help in piecing together life in Harappan civilization? 15M

Harappan civilization, one of the ancient civilizations in the world (2500-1900 BC) hold key to knowing our past. Even though the writing [Kharoshti script] could not be deciphered, it provides us with the objects which help in piecing together life at that time.

Archaeological evidence and contribution

1) Presence of citadel in some towns show the division of society - aristocrats and peasants living differently.

2) Town planning - evidenced by burnt bricks, grid lanes cut at  $90^\circ$ , covered drains, bathrooms in houses etc.

3) Granaries at Harappa - evidence of surplus agriculture production.

4) Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro indicate ritual bathing.

5) Religion

- ↳ evidence of mother goddess terracotta seal, Pashupati nath seal
  - ↳ worship of nature such as Peepal tree
  - ↳ Beads and amulets worn
- show the religious and nature fearing people of civilization.

6) Fire Altar and Pottery at Kalibangan show the cultural proclivity of people.

7) Water management system at Dholavira and Dockyard at Lothal show importance of sea-faring activities.

8) Objects and coins of different civilizations such as Mesopotamia etc. found → show cultural exchange between people.

9) Lack of iron implements indicate that agriculture was not as prevalent and prosperous compared to later times.

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10) Copper tools also found - indicate cultural exchange with Chalcolithic civilization running parallelly.

11) Bronze tools such as Dancing girl indicate prowess of Bronze sculpture.

12) Indicators of ruins at Rakhigarhi show civilization phased out due to natural & other causes.

Some things are yet to be discovered which would give better clarity on the civilization - such as writing. Yet, the presence of these materials have provided us a great insight into the life in past.

Q7.  
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How do you explain the decline of ~~Hinduism~~ <sup>Buddhism</sup> and Jainism? What was the impact of these philosophies on Indian society? (15M)

The influence of Buddhism and Jainism was a watershed movement in Indian religious thought starting from 6<sup>th</sup> CBC as they provided an appropriate challenge to Vedic religion. However, over time these religions declined in India because:-

1) Syncreticism - Started following practices of Hinduism such as elaborate rituals, idol worship → ceased to remain an alternative.

2) Increase in corruption - The guilds and shrenis in Buddhism and Jainism, organized by monks, traders started to be corrupt.

3) Lack of state patronage - eg: Gupta rulers were Hindu, thus, started decline of these religions.

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4) Reform in Hinduism - several practices such as cattle killing, untouchability started to reduce making Hinduism still attractive.

5) Declined further with rise of Islam

↳ invaders such as Ghazni looted many Jain temples in the West

↳ Bakhtiyar Khalji destroyed Nalanda University - decreasing scholarship.

Impact of these philosophies on Indian society:-

1) Promotion of Equality - Both Buddhism and Jainism advocate equality and don't believe in caste.

2) Simple living and non-attachment - core of these philosophies. Eg:- many Jain leaders donated all their wealth for welfare.

3) No cruelty towards animals and other species.

(4) Development of languages - eg: Pali, (Buddhist literature), Prakrit and Ardhamagadhi (Jain literature)

(5) Development of literature

(i) Buddhism - Dipavamsa, Milinda Panho etc.

(ii) Jainism - Kalpasutra, 12 Angas etc.

(6) Art and architecture

(i) Buddhist - development of stupas, pillars, monasteries, Ajanta painting

(ii) Jainism - Diff temple style in West [Maharashtra]

(7) Sculpture - Buddhist sculpture such as Gandhara, Mathura and Amaravati.

Thus, these philosophies not only shaped the way of thinking but also contributed to tangible art form in Indian history.

Q8.

Discuss the main contribution of Gupta and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture.

Gupta period, known as the golden age of ancient India [3<sup>rd</sup> AD - 6<sup>th</sup> AD] is ages apart from Chola period [9<sup>th</sup> C - 12<sup>th</sup> AD], yet, both of them have contributed immensely to the development of heritage & culture.

### GUPTA PERIOD :-

- 1) Development of Nagara style of architecture temples such as Dashavatara, Kandariya Mahadev - started building.
- 2) Mural paintings at Ajanta focussing on Hindu, Jain and Buddhist art form.
- 3) Numismatic art :- Diff gold (dinas), silver (Tanka) & copper (jital) coins made - Samudragupta issued 8 types of gold coins.
- 4) Contribution to literature
  - (i) Prose and Play - eg: Work of Kalidasa → Raghuvamsha, Malvikagnimitram

(ii) Court chronicles by Banabhatta

(iii) Lexicon i.e. Amarkosha

(5) Contribution to science

(i) Discovery of zero, pythagoras etc by Aryabhata, Varahmira, Brahmagupta

(ii) Medicine, Ayurveda and surgery by Charaka and Sushruta.

(iii) Ship building / Yukti Kalpataru.

(iv) Rasayan / Chemistry and various physics principles.

CHOLA PERIOD :-

1) Development of architecture

i) Dravida architecture reached zenith.

ii) Added gopuram & vimanas of considerable height

iii) Eg: Brihadishwara temple, Tanjore.

2) Bronze casting - eg: Natraja figure

which is still revered in many temples.

3) Development of various ports and

contribution to trade

4) Development of dance and culture

↳ mention of various art forms in Nathamuni's book.

↳ growth of Bharatnatyam and patronage to Devadasi.

5) Contribution to literature - development of books by Bhakti saints such as Divya Prabandam.

6) Paintings in temple walls continued and included paintings and murals of kings as well.

Therefore, both Gupta and Chola period added several features to the art, culture and heritage of India.

Q9.

Sanskrit lit in general and particularly the Gupta age set a high watermark for literary history of ancient India [Discuss].

Sanskrit literature is one of the earliest deciphered literature in Indian subcontinent dating back to Rig Vedic period [1500 BCE]. A lot of rulers have preferred it ~~to~~ as the court language and it reached its apex during Gupta age.

### HIGH WATERMARK FOR LITERARY HISTORY

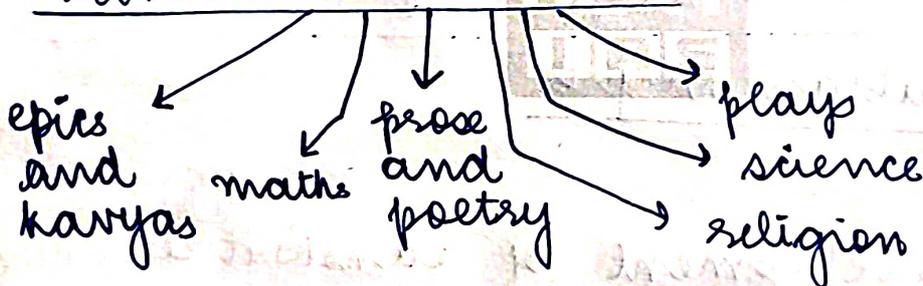
- 1) Vedas and Upaveda - Rig Veda (1024 hymns), Sama Veda, Yajur Veda and Atharva Veda - dealing with music, sacrifice rituals etc.
- 2) Epics and Purans - Mahabharat, Ramayan, Bhagwat Purana - continue to be read, rewritten in different languages.
- 3) Inscriptions - such as Junagarh inscription on lake Sudarshan's repair by Rudradaman I, Shaka ruler provides insight into works by rulers.

(4) 'Arthashastra' by Kautilya is the source of political, economic and social guide to state administration.

(5) Smritis and commentaries - such as Narasimha Smriti, Manusmriti (law) and Dharamshastras - laid down rules and regulations for society.

### CONTRIBUTION OF GUPTA AGE

It is often called Golden age of Sanskrit literature :-



#### 1) Epics and kavyas →

- Mahabharat and Ramayan were written during this period.
- kavyas of Kalidasa such as Meghaduta, Ritvasamhara.

#### 2) Prose and poetry of high quality:-

- Mudrakshasa → ~~Vishakhadutta~~ <sup>Vishakhadutta</sup> Sudraka
- Swanprnavaśdatia → Bhāsa.

3) Plays → showed quality of life in society

- Kalidas wrote - Malvikagnimitram,  
Abhigyanashakuntalam.

4) Science and technology

- ↳ Charaksamhita by Charak and Sushruta  
samhita by Sushruta on medicine - still  
hold relevance in Ayurveda & allopathy
- ↳ Works of Aryabhata, Baudhyayana,  
Brahmagupta - changed way of viewing  
Maths, physics, astronomy.

5) Fables like Panchtantra by Vishnu Gupta  
inspired Arabian Nights.

Therefore, development of Sanskrit literature  
in Gupta age paved way for enhancing  
its importance to one of the greatest  
languages of sub-continent which later  
gave birth to many other languages.

10. Although there were many diff in Gandhara and Mathura school, they considerably influenced Amravati schools. Elaborate. (15M)

Gandhara, Mathura and Amravati schools are three schools of sculpture which developed in ancient India - with their primary focus being Buddhist. They equally contributed to this art form in India.

Differences between Gandhara and Mathura schools :-

Gandhara	Mathura
1) Present in modern day Gandhar i.e. Afghanistan-Baluch region	1) Present day Mathura, UP.
2) Use of grey sandstone and stucco	2) Use of red sandstone
3) Focussed only on Buddhism.	3) Focussed on Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism.
4) Had considerable influence from	4) Indigenous in nature

<p>Persia and Hellenistic art forms.</p>	
<p>5) Presence of halo and bold external features and beauty</p>	<p>5) Absence of halo and focus on internal beauty.</p>
<p>6) Patronized by central Asian rulers - Shakas etc</p>	<p>6) Patronized by Kushanas etc.</p>
<p>7) Divine representation of Buddha</p>	<p>7) More humanistic</p>

Anurath  
Influence on Gandhara Art

(A) Mathura school :-

- 1) Impact of Brahmanism.
- 2) more indigenous in nature without external influences.
- 3) Absence of halo.
- 4) More humanistic form of Buddha

(B) Gandhara school of art

- 1) Bold representation of external features like clothes, movements, expressions

2) Focus on Buddhism

3) Representation of tales from Buddha's life.

④ Special features of ~~Gandhara~~ school  
Amravati

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1) Use of green marble instead of sandstone.

2) Representation of different stories such as jātakas kathas.

3) Influence of Dravidian art style

4) Miniature form of sculpture developed.

Thus, even though the earlier two schools contributed a lot to development of Amravati art, it was developed as a separate art form with its unique features.