

Chapter 2—Ancient India

ESSAY

1. How did the geography of the Indian subcontinent influence the development of civilization there?
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1
2. What were some of the main characteristics of Indian politics and government during the first millennium B.C.E., and how can they be compared and contrasted with those of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia?
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1
3. Discuss the possible impact of India's climate on the beliefs and practices of early Hinduism.
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1
4. What opinions have been presented concerning the origins of the Aryans? Why is a proper understanding of the origin of the Aryans so crucial for the historian of India?
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1
5. What are the major Indian castes? Was the caste system a stabilizing or a destabilizing factor in Indian society, or both? Give specific examples.
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1
6. Why was India unable to maintain a unified empire in the first millennium B.C.E., and how was the Mauryan Empire temporarily able to overcome the tendencies toward disunity? What was the role of the Greeks under Alexander in the Mauryan ascendancy?
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1
7. Discuss the concept of reincarnation as it is understood by Hindus, and then by Buddhists. Are there any differences? How did each religion influence Indian civilization?
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1
8. Discuss the possible monotheistic elements in Hindu polytheism.
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1
9. Were the beliefs of early Hindus and Buddhists fundamentally the same? Why or why not? Why was Buddhism able to make such inroads among the Indian people at a time when Brahmanical beliefs had long been dominant in the subcontinent?
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1
10. In what ways did the events of Ashoka's reign mark the high point of Buddhism in India? Why?
ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1

11. In what way is the perspective on the role women presented in the Law of Manu ambiguous? How does this perspective compare with that found in early Mesopotamia and Egypt? What social convention undergirded the practice of Suti? How was this practice presented by the Greek writer Megasthenes?

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1

IDENTIFICATIONS

Instructions: Identify the following terms.

1. Arjuna and Krishna

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 37-38

2. Ganges and Indus rivers

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 38

3. Harappans

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 38-40

4. Mohenjo-Daro

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 38-40

5. Harappan seals

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 40

6. the Deccan Plateau

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 38

7. Dravidians

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 38

8. Aryans

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 38

9. raja and maharaja
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 43
10. Rigveda
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 43
11. Alexander the Great
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 44
12. Chandragupta Maurya
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 44
13. Arthasastra
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 44
14. varna/caste
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 44-46
15. jati
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 47
-
16. Brahmins
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 45
17. Kshatriya
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 45-46
18. Vaisya
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 46
19. Sudras
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 46
20. Law of Manu

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 46

21. untouchables/pariahs

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 46-47

22. the monsoon

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 49

23. asceticism

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 50

24. sati

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 48

25. Hinduism

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 51

26. Vedas

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 50

27. Upanishads

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 50

28. Varuna

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 50

29. Dyaus and Indra

ANS:

Answer not provided.

PTS: 1 REF: p. 50

30. Vishnu and Siva

ANS:

- Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 52
31. Brahman
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 52
32. karma
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 50
33. dharma
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 50
34. reincarnation
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 51-52
35. Buddhism
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 52-54
36. Siddhartha Gautama
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 52-54
37. sermon at the deer park at Sarnath/Benares
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 54-55
38. Nirvana
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 54
39. bodhi
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 54
40. Atman
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 54
41. Four Noble Truths
ANS:
Answer not provided.

- PTS: 1 REF: p. 54
42. Middle Path/Eightfold Way
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 54
43. Mahavira and Jainism
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 55
44. Mauryan Empire
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 44
45. Ashokan pillars
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 56
46. Sanskrit and Prakrit
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 58
47. Panini
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 58
48. *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 58
49. stupas and rock chambers
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 54
50. "rule of the fishes"
ANS:
Answer not provided.
PTS: 1 REF: p. 57

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. The southern area of the Indian subcontinent, a region of hills and upland plateau, is called the

- a. Ganges River Valley.
- b. Indus River Valley.
- c. Deccan Plateau.
- d. Kara Korum.
- e. Hindu Kush.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 38

2. The two major cities of the Harappan civilization
- a. were Gujarat and Panini.
 - b. were both located near the Indian Ocean coast.
 - c. each had over 500,000 inhabitants.
 - d. were Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.
 - e. were established on the bank of the Ganges River.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 38

3. Which of the following correctly describes Harappan civilization?
- a. It showed no similarity to the civilizations of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia.
 - b. Its culture never attained the status of a true civilization.
 - c. It was much more agricultural than its contemporaries in Egypt and Mesopotamia.
 - d. It was a collection of over fifteen hundred towns and cities, ruled by landlords and rich merchants.
 - e. It never developed an urban center of over 3,000 people.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 40

4. The Harappan economy
- a. was based upon war and conquest.
 - b. is unknown, due to the lack of physical or written evidence.
 - c. was devoted to the maintenance of the god Seth.
 - d. was based primarily on agriculture.
 - e. was exclusively involved in manufacturing and trade.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 40

5. The Aryans
- a. dominated ancient India after their arrival from the north.
 - b. assimilated with the Dravidians to form an egalitarian India.
 - c. introduced agriculture to India.
 - d. created a unified system of tribal alliances and kingdoms within ancient India.
 - e. came originally from Persia and the Arabian peninsula.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 42

6. The Aryans
- a. were an Indo-European people who spoke the German language.
 - b. crushed Mohenjo-Daro when the Harappan Civilization was at its peak.
 - c. never controlled any of the Deccan Plateau.
 - d. were the first Dravidian people to settle in the Indus Valley.
 - e. were led by tribal chieftains who were called rajas.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: p. 43

7. What army of occupation was driven from India by Chandragupta Maurya?

- a. the Akkadian army.
- b. the army of Ramses IV.
- c. the forces of the Assyrian king.
- d. the Greek administrators who had remained after Alexander the Great.
- e. the army of Tamir the Lame.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 44

8. The Indian term dharma referred to laws setting behavioral standards for which groups in Indian society?
- a. bodhis and kshatriyas.
 - b. rajas and maharajas.
 - c. the Dao.
 - d. the untouchables.
 - e. all inhabitants of India, of all classes.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: p. 44

9. According to the *Arthashastra*,
- a. the king was required to rule solely in a despotic manner.
 - b. for the king, practical politics and results are more important than the divine law.
 - c. there was to be egalitarian use of political power in the society.
 - d. a primitive form of self-rule were to be given to peasants.
 - e. rulers were to be morally flawless.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 44

10. Chandragupta Maurya
- a. may have been a member of the army of Alexander the Great.
 - b. feared assassination and had a secret police.
 - c. was the last major Mauryan ruler.
 - d. worshiped the god Mithras.
 - e. abolished Buddhism in India.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 44

11. The caste system
- a. was applicable to every member of Indian society.
 - b. was a central element of Buddhist belief.
 - c. was actually more flexible than the Egyptian social structure.
 - d. originated in Macedonia.
 - e. was unsuccessfully opposed by Aryan warriors' wives.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 45-50

12. The authority of Mauryan kings was
- a. limited by the practical aspects of administering a numerous independent city states.
 - b. curtailed by an institutionalized bureaucracy of powerful governors and ministers.
 - c. unlimited by law or custom.
 - d. established by Alexander the Great.
 - e. diminished by the onset of the Black Death.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 44

13. The members of the caste known as the untouchables, or pariahs, were
- a. so holy that they would be contaminated if touched even by high priests.
 - b. given extensive opportunity to achieve social mobility.
 - c. required to have a minimum of five children during their lifetimes.
 - d. composed primarily of priests and financial planners.
 - e. given jobs such as handling dead bodies or collecting trash.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: p. 47

14. The three "twice-born" castes were the
- Sikh, Hamar and Maltese.
 - sudras, brahmins and kshatriya.
 - vaisya, kshatriya and brahmins.
 - brahmins, bodhi and mahayana.
 - sudra, ashakan and pariah.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 46

15. During the Mauryan Dynasty,
- the government extensively regulated economic activities.
 - the rulers showed no interest in major religious developments.
 - women were able to own and inherit land and one, Omione, even reigned for years.
 - Ashoka created and publicized the ideas of karma and irgun.
 - Alexander built a city on the Ganges.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 49

16. The Indian priestly caste was known as the
- kshatriya.
 - pariah.
 - brahmin.
 - vaisya.
 - volcana.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 45

17. The Indian warrior caste was known as the
- kshatriya.
 - pariah.
 - brahmin.
 - vaisya.
 - jati.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 45

18. Women in ancient India
- were legally owned by their husbands and male children.
 - were never permitted to study the Vedas or own land, but could often serve as gurus.
 - never married before the age of twenty-one years.
 - were in theory required that a widow throw herself upon her dead husband's funeral pyre.
 - were barred from even viewing the ritual of sati.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 48

19. The third-ranked caste, usually viewed as the merchant caste, was the
- kshatriya.
 - pariah.
 - brahmins.
 - vaisya.
 - sudras.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 46

20. The term that refers to the system of large, joint families in India is
- jati.
 - varna.

- c. guru.
- d. sati.
- e. boyar.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 47

21. All of the following are true about the jati system except

- a. it was the category of social classification with subdivisions within each for different castes.
- b. it served to categorize large numbers of individual families.
- c. it sometimes offered an opportunity for upward mobility.
- d. it could serve as a stabilizing factor in Indian life.
- e. a jati was obliged to provide for its poor and destitute members.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 47

22. Ashoka

- a. was the founder of Jainism.
- b. was the only Indian emperor who tried to foster trade.
- c. changed his personal values and governmental policies after becoming a Buddhist.
- d. sent Buddhist missionaries to China and Japan to instruct the people.
- e. was a vaisya.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 56

23. Which of the following accurately describes gender relationships in ancient Indian society?

- a. The practices concerning education, priesthood service, and property inheritance demonstrated egalitarianism between the genders.
- b. The superiority of males over females was manifested in all areas of marital life.
- c. Polygamy, child marriage, and divorce practices demonstrated the emphasis on gender equality.
- d. Descent was matrilineal.
- e. A woman achieved "free" status at the age of twenty.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 47-48

24. According to the *Atharvashasta*, a woman who had been deserted by her husband:

- a. was entitled to the return of double her dowry.
- b. could seek a divorce.
- c. had no recourse.
- d. was immediately freed from all marital commitments.
- e. could never remarry.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 47

25. A major religion that was founded by Mahavira in the sixth century was

- a. Daoism.
- b. Jainism.
- c. Chandrism.
- d. Zoroastrianism.
- e. Hinduism.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 54

26. Asceticism in ancient Indian religion

- a. served as a substitute for sacrificial practices as a means to placate and communicate with the gods.
- b. enabled priests to facilitate communication between believers and the gods.
- c. enhanced sacrificial practices.
- d. provided means of firmly establishing one's experiences apart from the realm of spiritual meditative processes.

e. reduced food consumption, as desired by Ashoka.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 50

27. Asceticism eventually evolved into the modern practice of body training known as
- karma.
 - satya.
 - yoga.
 - sati.
 - samsara.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 50

28. A set of commentaries on the Vedas that emphasized spiritual meditation were the
- Upanishads.
 - Kamasutra.
 - Rigveda.
 - Mahabharata.
 - Epistularias.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 50

29. Which of the following statements is a valid observation about Brahman?
- He was a contemporary of the Buddha.
 - He was the Creator.
 - He demanded monotheism.
 - He challenged the caste system.
 - He spread Hinduism to China along the Silk Road.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 52

30. The Indian term that refers to the impact of one's actions in life on a later life after reincarnation is
- satya.
 - dharma.
 - karma.
 - sati.
 - khalid.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 50

31. The ultimate goal of Hindus is to
- attain a blissful, eternal afterlife.
 - attain an ultimate spiritual reunion with Brahman and escape the pain of living.
 - attain eternal life by exchanging one's karma for Atman.
 - be reborn again and again.
 - achieve enlightenment in the Western Paradise.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 54

32. On a practical level, reincarnation
- destroyed the caste system.
 - provided hope for the lower class.
 - prevented the assimilation of the poor into Indian society.
 - weakened the authority of Jainism.
 - weakened the conceptual foundation of Indian society.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 50

33. The founder of Buddhism was
- Chandragupta Maurya.
 - Siddhartha Gautama.
 - Mahauira Krishna.

- d. Ashoka Gupta.
- e. Mahavira.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 53

34. A key difference between Hinduism and Buddhism was that Buddhism
- a. claimed that each individual possessed an individual, reincarnatable soul.
 - b. believed in an unyielding caste structure.
 - c. was simpler, as it rejected the numerous Hindu gods.
 - d. required belief in a different, two-tier caste system.
 - e. originated in Mongolia, Siddhartha's birthplace.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 54

35. Gautama said that the way to avoid suffering was to end desire by
- a. permanently isolating oneself from the rest of humanity.
 - b. practicing excessive asceticism.
 - c. following the "Middle Path."
 - d. practicing karma exercises.
 - e. avoiding agricultural projects.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 54

36. According to tradition, Ashoka's son:
- a. abdicated the throne in humility to a wise advisor.
 - b. died because Ashoka refused to commit a violent act.
 - c. sought to convert Ashoka to Jainism.
 - d. was responsible for converting the island of Sri Lanka to Buddhism.
 - e. was an academic and found no interest in politics.

ANS: D PTS: 1 REF: p. 56

37. After the decline of the Mauryan Empire, the new kingdom that was founded by nomadic warriors in Bactria was the
- a. Macedonian Empire.
 - b. Chan Empire.
 - c. Kushan Kingdom.
 - d. Shungas Republic.
 - e. Xiongnu Empire.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 57

38. "The Rule of the Fishes" refers to the
- a. statement of Buddha about the need to abstain from killing reptiles.
 - b. view that warfare is glorious and was the primary activity of kings and aristocrats.
 - c. development of a major marine fishery program under Ashoka.
 - d. desire of Hindus to eat fish rather than cattle.
 - e. the invasion of the Ganges basin by the Sea Peoples from South Asia.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 57

39. The earliest of the Vedas was the
- a. Brahmanas.
 - b. Upanishads.
 - c. Rig Veda.
 - d. Ramayana.
 - e. Bodhiyara.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 58

40. The purpose of the Vedas was to provide

- a. the unchanging theological dogma of Hinduism.
- b. hymns and ritual sacrifices for tribal Aryan religious ceremonies.
- c. the historical legacy of the Hindu tradition.
- d. commentaries on the tribal Aryan religious beliefs.
- e. the story of the decline of Harappa.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 58

41. The language of the Vedas was

- a. Prakrit.
- b. Sanskrit.
- c. Hindi.
- d. Gujarati.
- e. Farsi.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 58

42. A famous grammar was written by the Indian scholar

- a. Panini.
- b. Ashoka.
- c. Gandhi.
- d. Jawaharlal.
- e. Arjuna.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 58

43. *The Mahabharata*

- a. describes the peaceful relations between Aryan cousins.
- b. primarily details the activities of Hindu rulers.
- c. provides an elaborate discussion of the ethics of the dharma.
- d. contains Krishna's sermon in which he advocates the value of success or failure as the paramount objective in all activities.
- e. sharply attacks belief in the dharma as being irrational.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 58

44. *The Ramayana*

- a. is a presentation of Indian values.
- b. ignores the relationship of gods and animals in human life.
- c. is a realistic depiction of Indian life.
- d. describes an Aryan attack on Delhi.
- e. is the name of the warrior caste.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 57

45. The purpose of Ashoka's great polished sandstone pillars was to

- a. commemorate events in Buddha's life.
- b. mark pilgrim routes to Daoist holy places.
- c. warn aliens to leave India.
- d. provide propaganda for Kautilya's government.
- e. celebrate his victories over Alexander the Great.

ANS: A PTS: 1 REF: p. 60-61

46. Stupas

- a. originally housed a relic of Ashoka.
- b. ultimately became a place of devotion.
- c. was the site where painting first developed in India.
- d. were believed to be the homes of Vishnu.
- e. were pillars, exactly fifty meters high and thirty meters deep.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 61

47. Which of the following is not true about the rock chambers?
- Ashoka originally built them to house monks and wandering ascetics.
 - They were carved out of the sides of mountains.
 - Ashoka prohibited their use for religious ceremonies.
 - Their structural format was similar to that of a Roman basilica.
 - One of the most famous rock chambers is at Ajanta.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 61

48. The most enduring achievement of Indian science and mathematics was:
- the patterns formed by stars, or constellations.
 - the three states of matter.
 - the fact that the sun is a star.
 - important observations of the orbit of Mars.
 - the discovery of the so-called "Arabic" number system which we use today.

ANS: E PTS: 1 REF: p. 61

49. For the ordinary Indian, the sensuous paradise that adorned ancient Indian religious art represented
- scientific curiosity.
 - salvation and fulfillment.
 - a reward for outstanding achievement.
 - an active fantasy life.
 - the final phase of decadence.

ANS: B PTS: 1 REF: p. 61

50. Ancient Indian scientific activities
- were based on ideas much like those of Arabia.
 - were notably lacking in astronomical interest.
 - included the development of the idea that the earth was a sphere.
 - were much more significant than Indian religious innovations.
 - caused the Indian scientists to be renowned for their world domination in alchemy.

ANS: C PTS: 1 REF: p. 61

TRUE/FALSE

1. Harappan civilization evolved along the Ganges River.

ANS: F PTS: 1 REF: p. 38

2. The Aryans introduced agriculture to the Indian subcontinent.

ANS: F PTS: 1 REF: p. 40

3. The Aryans were a Semetic-peoples.

ANS: F PTS: 1 REF: p. 41

4. According to the *Arthasastra*, sacred law took precedence over history and evidence, but even sacred law was subject to reason.

ANS: T PTS: 1 REF: p. 44

5. *The Arthasastra*, associated with the Mauryan court official Kautilya, has been compared to Machiavelli's *The Prince*.

ANS: T PTS: 1 REF: p. 44

6. The caste system was in part a reflection of the light-skinned Aryans' conquest of the dark-skinned Dravidians.

REF: p. 44-45

7. Siddhartha denied the reality of the material or physical world, claiming that it was all an illusion that had to be transcended.

REF: p. 54

8. In comparison to Hinduism, Buddhism was much less egalitarian.

REF: p. 54

9. After the fall of the Mauryan dynasty, the Indian subcontinent was immediately reunified under the Gupta dynasty.

REF: p. 57

10. The language of the Vedas was Prakrit.

REF: p. 58