

Name

Class

Date

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Chapter 02

1. Archaeologists have discovered the remains of over one thousand small agriculture settlements in the Indus River Valley.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER:

True

2. The Indus Valley economy was based primarily on agriculture.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER:

True

3. *The Arthashastra* has been compared to Machiavelli's *The Prince* for its emphasis on the ends rather than the means.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER:

True

4. The caste system created by the Aryans most reflected an informal division of labor.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER:

False

5. Siddhartha taught that the ultimate reality of the physical world was an illusion that had to be transcended.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER:

True

6. In comparison to Hinduism, Buddhism was much less egalitarian and accepted class differences.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER:

False

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

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER:

False

8. The language of the Vedas was Prakrit, the language of the bureaucracy and literary expression.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER:

False

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9. Two of the world's major religions, Hinduism and Zoroastrianism, originated in India.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: False

10. Indian advances in science include devising a numerical system of Arabic numbers.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWER: True

11. Which of the following correctly describes the Indus Valley society?

- 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.

ANSWER: d

12. What is true of the writing system of the Indus Valley society?

- a. It dates back to the first millennium BCE.
- b. The script contains more than four hundred characters.
- c. Most of the symbols used were sacred or religious in some way.
- d. It is similar to writing forms in Mesopotamia.
- e. The primary purpose of writing was to record stories.

ANSWER: b

13. Who did Chandragupta Maurya drive out of India before he solidified control?

- 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.

ANSWER: d

14. 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.

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ANSWER:

e

15. What goods did the Indus Valley civilization import from their trading network with Sumer?

- a. textiles
- b. copper
- c. lumber
- d. precious stones
- e. rice

ANSWER:

a

16. The authority of Mauryan kings was

- a. limited by lack of communication between 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.

ANSWER:

b

17. The three "twice-born" castes were the

- a. Sikh, Hamar, and Maltese.
- b. sudras, brahmins, and kshatriya.
- c. vaisya, kshatriya, and brahmins.
- d. brahmins, bodhi, and mahayana.
- e. sudra, ashakan, and pariah.

ANSWER:

c

18. 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. the largest percentage of the population.
- d. composed primarily of priests and financial planners.
- e. given jobs such as handling dead bodies or collecting trash.

ANSWER:

e

19. Why don't historians know much about the organization of Indus society?

- a. They have been unable to decipher the writing system.
- b. There is scant archaeological evidence.
- c. The organization is so different from other cultures, it has created confusion.
- d. There appears to have been little organization in Indus society.
- e. Historians have traditionally not studied Indus society until recently.

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ANSWER:

a

20. The Indian priestly caste was known as the
- a. kshatriya.
 - b. pariah.
 - c. brahmin.
 - d. vaisya.
 - e. volcana.

ANSWER:

c

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

ANSWER:

d

22. The third-ranked caste, usually viewed as the merchant caste, was the
- a. kshatriya.
 - b. pariah.
 - c. brahmins.
 - d. vaisya.
 - e. sudras.

ANSWER:

d

23. All of the following are true about the jati system except
- a. it was the category of social classification within each of the 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.

ANSWER:

a

24. What was the ideal social unit in Ancient India?
- a. A nuclear family unit consisting of parents and their children.
 - b. A small group of multiple families living together.
 - c. Three generations of one family living under the same roof.
 - d. An extended family including all cousins and other relatives.
 - e. The families of both a husband and wife living together.

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ANSWER:

c

25. According to the *Arthashastra*, 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.

ANSWER:

b

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

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

ANSWER:

b

27. 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.

ANSWER:

a

28. A set of commentaries on the Vedas that emphasized spiritual meditation and a life of privation were the

- a. Upanishads.
- b. Kamasutra.
- c. Rigveda.
- d. Mahabharata.
- e. Epistularias.

ANSWER:

a

29. From where did a raja derive his power?

- a. From his desire to develop strong relationships with his people.
- b. From his willingness to listen to the counsel of others.
- c. From his ability to protect his people from rival groups.
- d. From his skills on the battlefield as a general.

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- e. From his claim to be a god.

ANSWER:

c

30. Under the Aryans, what was the leading economic driver of the economy?

- a. conquering through warfare
- b. agriculture
- c. trade routes
- d. development of manufacturing
- e. slave labor

ANSWER:

b

31. The founder of Buddhism was

- a. Chandragupta Maurya.
- b. Siddhartha Gautama.
- c. Mahauira Krishna.
- d. Ashoka Gupta.
- e. Mahavira.

ANSWER:

b

32. What was a hardship endured by Indian farmers?

- a. Being subject to a changing market
- b. Experiencing starvation when rains were late.
- c. Facing an unpredictable climate.
- d. Working land they did not own.
- e. All of the above.

ANSWER:

e

33. 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.

ANSWER:

c

34. How does karma play a role in the concept of reincarnation?

- a. It is the philosophy that justifies the basis for reincarnation.
- b. Actions in this life determine one's rebirth in the next life.
- c. Treating others well suggests that you were kind in a past life.
- d. Doing ill in this life means that you will be ill-treated in the next life.

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- e. Gaining enough karma will guarantee a union with the Great World Soul.

ANSWER:

b

35. Which of the following statements properly describes the evolution of religion from Aryan pastoral society to the practice of Aryan elites?

- a. Early beliefs that largely focused around ritual sacrifice gave way to a system of tying all deities into natural events.
- b. Early beliefs were informal and family based which gave way to a state-organized religion.
- c. The early beliefs with deities representing nature gave way to a formalized system that involved performing sacrifices to obtain favors.
- d. Early beliefs focused on a Greek-like polytheistic approach that gave way to a monotheistic practice.
- e. Early beliefs and later practices of Aryan elites remained fairly constant spanning centuries.

ANSWER:

c

36. The purpose of the Vedas was to provide

- a. the unchanging theological dogma of Hinduism.
- b. hymns and ritual sacrifices for 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.

ANSWER:

b

37. The language of the Vedas was

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

ANSWER:

b

38. Which of the following is not a characteristic of Buddhism?

- a. One form of wisdom comes from realizing pain, poverty, and sorrow come from the attachment to things of this world.
- b. Its relative egalitarianism teaching that all human beings could aspire to Nirvana.
- c. The ability of women to become monks who were on equal footing with the men.
- d. It was much simpler than other existing beliefs.
- e. Teaching the material world is an illusion that needs to be transcended.

ANSWER:

c

39. The *Ramayana*

- a. is a presentation of Indian values through its characters.

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- 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.

ANSWER:

a

40. 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.

ANSWER:

a

41. The three major forms of architecture in ancient India had which of the following in common?
- a. They were largely formulaic and followed a set pattern.
 - b. They are embellished with figures that give them a sense of nature and the vitality of life.
 - c. They forbid the representation of people and animals.
 - d. They reflected the philosophies of Buddhism but not other religions.
 - e. They were largely developed as secular monuments by kings.

ANSWER:

b

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

ANSWER:

c

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

ANSWER:

c

44. The collapse of Indus Valley civilization
- a. indicates a gradual decline and abandonment of Mohenjo Daro.

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- b. was due to a volcanic eruption that destroyed and buried the city.
- c. probably occurred as a result of natural causes.
- d. was due to the onslaught of Aryan invasions.
- e. was due to flooding during the monsoon seasons of the subcontinent.

ANSWER:

c

45. In the religious changes described by the Upanishads, *Brahman* meant
- a. a monotheistic presence, later embodied by Vishnu.
 - b. the main celestial god honored by fire sacrifices.
 - c. the process of reincarnation for not doing one's dharma.
 - d. a shadowy ultimate reality with which one's individual spirit would merge.
 - e. the ritual worship maintained by the priestly caste.

ANSWER:

d

46. The concept of "the happiness of the king lying in the happiness of his subjects" is explained by
- a. *ma'at*
 - b. the Mandate of Heaven
 - c. the *Arthashastra*
 - d. karma
 - e. divination

ANSWER:

c

47. Which of the following was the most significant factor of Chandragupta Maurya's reign?
- a. His alliance with Alexander the Great.
 - b. His adoption of Buddhism and making it the official religion of the kingdom.
 - c. His centralization of the first dynasty to control much of India.
 - d. His production of sacred texts including the Upanishads.
 - e. His engagement in long-distance trade with the Roman Empire.

ANSWER:

c

48. The basic social organization of the *jati* was formed around one's
- a. caste
 - b. occupation
 - c. kin group
 - d. location
 - e. spiritual beliefs

ANSWER:

c

49. The first money system in India probably came into existence from
- a. coins of gold and copper from the Middle East

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- b. cowrie shells
- c. the occupation of Alexander the Great
- d. the Aryan migration
- e. the Mauryan government's centralized control of silver mines

ANSWER:

a

50. The main trio of the polytheistic gods in India are
- a. Shiva the Destroyer, Vishnu the Preserver, and Brahman the Creator
 - b. Shiva the Destroyer, Indra the Creator, and Agni the Fire God.
 - c. Varuna the Almighty, Krishna the Warrior, and Siddhartha Gautuma.
 - d. Ganesha of good fortune, Kali of Death, and Zuul the gatekeeper.
 - e. None of these

ANSWER:

a

51. Indian scientists considered all of the following to be an element of the earth EXCEPT

- a. spirit.
- b. fire.
- c. water.
- d. ether.
- e. air.

ANSWER:

a

52. What was the major purpose of Sanskrit after it declined as a spoken language?

- a. To serve as a base for the languages that developed afterward.
- b. To issue edicts of law, particularly religious law.
- c. To be spoken by the elites as a form of their status.
- d. To be used as the language of bureaucracy and literary expression.
- e. To serve as the main language for religious ritual.

ANSWER:

d

53. Ashoka was most notable for

- a. his conversion to Buddhism and facilitating its spread through India.
- b. conquering the Tamil portion of India.
- c. overseeing the writing of the Vedas.
- d. fighting an extensive war against Alexander the Great.
- e. None of these.

ANSWER:

a

54. Justification for centralization in India was written in which literary work?

- a. *Tripitaka*

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- b. *Rig Veda*
- c. *Arthasastra*
- d. *Mahabharata*
- e. *Ramayana*

ANSWER:

c

55. What were some of the main characteristics of Indian political and social structures during the first millennium BCE and how can they be compared and contrasted with those of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia?

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

56. Discuss the impact of India's climate on the beliefs and practices of Brahmanism. Use specific climatic, religious, and spiritual examples to support your thesis.

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

57. 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?

ANSWER: Answers may vary. .

58. What are the major Indian castes? Was the caste system a stabilizing or a destabilizing factor in Indian society, or both? Give specific examples.

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

59. Why was India unable to maintain a unified empire in the first millennium BCE, 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?

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

60. 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?

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

61. Which geographical features were crucial for the economic, settlement, and population growth of the Harappan civilization, ca. 3000– 2500 BCE? Use specific examples to support your thesis.

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

62. 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?

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

63. In what ways did the events of Ashoka's reign mark the high point of Buddhism in India? Why?

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

64. 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?

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ANSWER: Answers may vary.

65. Explain the expansion of trade in the Mauryan Empire; what facilitated it, and what made it more difficult before the Empire?

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

66. How did geographic conditioning in India prevent political unification until the Mauryan Empire?

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

67. How would you compare the political justification of rule in the *Arthashastra* to the Mandate of Heaven in early China?

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

68. How does the early Indian speculation about the nature of the cosmic order and the origins of life found in *The Upanishads* compare and contrast with comparable accounts about these matters from Egyptian and Hebrew primary sources?

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

69. What were the religious and spiritual goals of the construction of the stupa at Sanchi by Emperor Ashoka in the third century BCE? Evaluate the extent to which the construction of this and other stupas in India during Emperor Ashoka's reign advanced his religious and spiritual goals.

ANSWER: Answers may vary.

70. What does the story incorporated into the Ramayana illustrate about early Indian family life, social relations, and women's role in early Indian story? Use specific examples from the how the legendary ruler Rama and his wife Sita are portrayed in the Ramayana.

ANSWER: Answers may vary.