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ADVANCED INTEGRATED MENTORSHIP

ART AND CULTURE ASSESSMENT TEST-6

(To be filled by candidate)

Test Code : TC307

Name of Candidate : Abhishek Singh

NEXT IAS Roll No. : AIM24GCL1035 **Date of Examination :** 30-07-2023

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐

Bhopal ☐

Online ☒

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This Question-cum Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 32 pages. Immediately on receipt of the booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.

Candidates must read the instructions on this page and the following pages carefully before attempting the paper.

Candidates should attempt the questions strictly in accordance with the instructions specified in the question paper and in the space prescribed under each question in the booklet. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.

Question paper will be provided separately and can be taken by the candidates after conclusion of the exam.

SUBJECT/PAPER
GENERAL STUDIES

Invigilator's Sign. :

(For filling by Examiners only)

Evaluator Code :

Q.No	Pg No.	Maximum Marks	Marks	Total
1	1			
2	3			
3	5			
4	7			
5	9			
6	11			
7	14			
8	17			
9	20			
10	23			
Grand Total				

Signature

MACRO COMMENTS

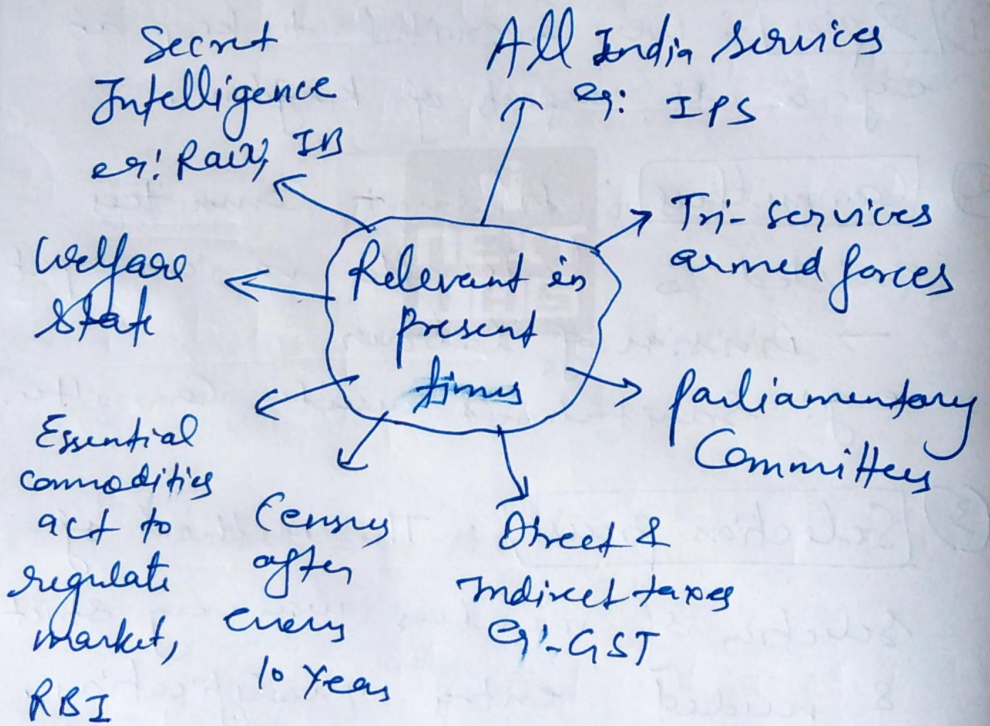
Q1 The level of excellence of the administration of the Mauvya Kingdom was ahead of time & still relevant in present India? Discuss.

The mauvyaans were first large level administrative grants in Ancient India.

Level of excellence in administration

- ① Spies: were recruited to keep an eye on all aspects of kingdom.
- ② Committees: Different Committees existed to look after various aspect
→ Division of labour
eg: Sanitation & water Committee.
- ③ Selection process: The method of selection of members was very strict & needed extra qualifications.
- ④ Bureaucrats: 'Amatyas' were soul of administration.
- ⑤ Record maintenance: census & daily life was carefully recorded for reevaluation.

- ⑥ Strong military: which was paid in cash & regularly trained
- ⑦ Regulation of markets: to control price level
- ⑧ tax collection: very efficient



⑥ Maurya empire with the critical guidance of Chanakya showed excellence in administration & can be found in Arthashastra, Nitiashastra.

Q-2 The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian history.

Ans In India lots of rock cut architecture flourished due to presence of hills & mountains in large numbers.

Source of knowledge

- ① Barabar & Nagarjuni Caves: in Bihar donated to Ajivika sect by Ashoka.
- ② Rock cut stupes: showing spread of Buddhist faith all over India.
- ③ Ajanta Caves: Primarily Buddhist patronised by Vakataka king Harishena.
↳ Paintings telling stories
es: Padmapani.
- ④ Ellora Cave: Has all Hindu + Buddhist + Jain faiths presence

- largest monolithic rock cut shiva temple. → Artistic excellence

⑤ Sittannaval Caves : built by Pandya has paintings of Jains.

⑥ Udaigiri & Khandgiri caves : built by Kharvela of Kalinga.
→ Hathigumpha inscriptions tell stories.

⑦ Karle : Biggest rock cut chaitya.

⑧ Mahabalipuram : Rock cut Caves and sculptures built by Pallavas.

eg: monolithic Rathes, sculptures.

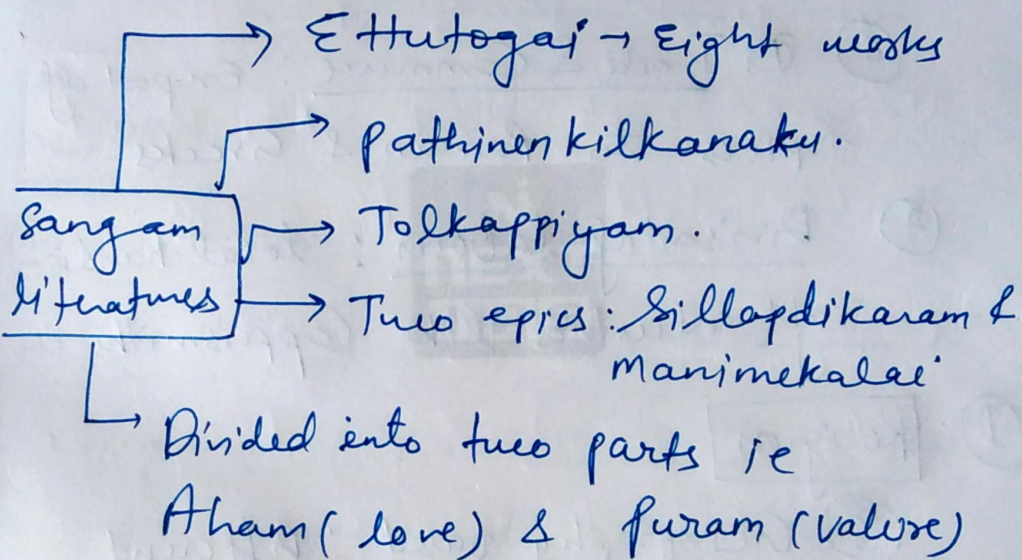
Gradually rock cut architecture translated into structural temples like Kanchipuram which gave more information about people's life.

Q-3

Though not very useful from point of view of a Connected political history of South India, Sangam literature portrays the social & economic conditions of its time with remarkable Vividness. Comment

Ans

Sangam literature tells the story of time between 300 BC to 300 AD (Approx).



Socio-economic Conditions

(A) Social

- ① Ulomen: Chastity of women highly desired ex: Silappadikaram (Kannagi), allowed to choose husbands
- ② Division: Society was divided into four classes.

- ③ Patriarchy was prevalent
- ④ Political
 - ④ Centralization of decision making
 - ⑤ Hereditary : kingship
- ⑤ Economic
 - ⑥ Trade & Commerce : Export of spices to Roman & Greeks
 - ⑦ Division of labour : local handicraft industries like Coppersmiths etc
- ⑥ Religion
 - ⑧ Geography based : Different areas worshipped their own gods
Murugan was 'main' god
 - ⑨ 'Nadu kal' : Stone worship prevalent.

Sangam society declined after attack of Kalabhojas but Sangam literature still 'awe' us with their vividness.

Q. 4

The fabric of Indian philosophical thought owes as much to Northern India as to southern India. Elucidate

Ans

As per Max Muller Indian philosophy has pondered upon questions of life to the maximum possible extent.

Southern India

- ① Bhakti movement : It originated in Tamil Nadu in 5th 6th century BC. Nayanars (Shaivites) & Alvars (Vaishnavites) enriched the literatures
eg: Nalayadeviya prabandham of Alvars.
- ② Shankaracharya : who wrote Brahmasutra & vedantic philosophy belonged to Kerala.
- ③ Ramanuja → gave Vishishtadvaita.
- ④ Similarly other saints like

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Nimbarka, madhava belonged to South.

⑤ Maharashtra: Saints like Tukaram, Gyaneshwar etc.

North India

- ① Saguna Saints: Like Tulsidas who wrote famous Ramcharitmanas
- ② Nirguna Saints: Like Nanak and Kabir left indelible marks.
- ③ Ragasthan: Merry a women devotee
- ④ Sufi movement: Spread against orthodoxy of Islam.
- ⑤ Buddhism: Arose in North India & taught 'truth' about life & four Noble paths
- ⑥ Jainism: Arose in North but later spread to South at Sravasthi.

So many traditions of philosophy indicates religious tolerance since eternity.

Q-5 How did the ancient trade Routes Connecting India to foreign Countries Contribute to the exchange & dissemination of Culture?

From Iranian invasion in 516 BC to Britishers Coming in 17th century trade routes have played a significant role in exchange of cultures.

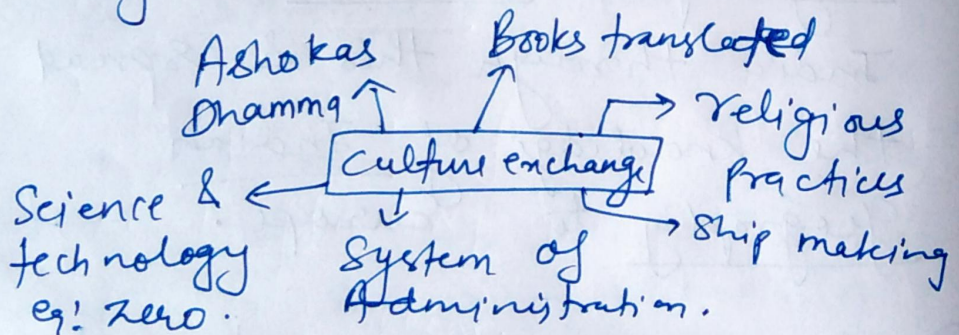
Ancient trade routes & Cultural exchange

- ① Harappan Civilization: Trade between 'Lothal' and Egyptian region happened via sea & land routes
- ② Khyber pass: Alexander came to India through this & spread the knowledge of Indian Geography to Europe.
- ③ Ancient Silk route: Kushan Empire had Control over silk route & used to levy taxes.

④ Bay of Bengal : Trade between South India and South east Asia passed through this route

⑤ Trade with Romans & Greeks : ~~but~~ from southern kingdoms of Chola, Chera & Pandyas $\Rightarrow$ large number of gold coins discovered. This happened via Arabian Sea route

⑥ Vasco De gama a portuguese sailor came to Cochin Coast & showed Europeans a way to rich lands of India.



India being Cradle of Civilization spread its culture over world through its rich flourishing trade.

Q.6

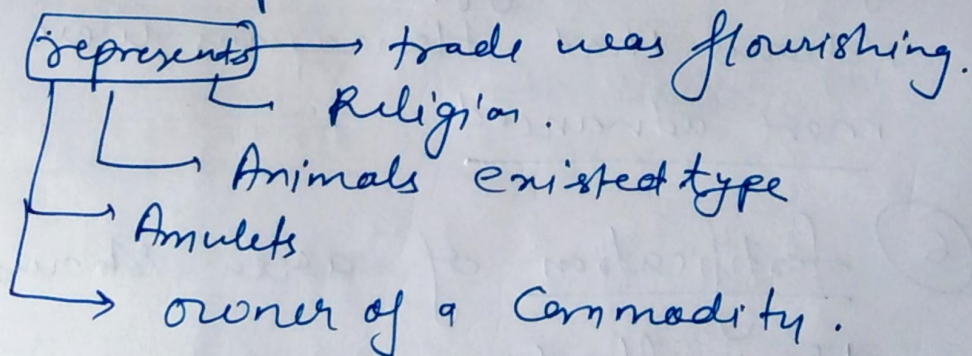
How does the archaeological evidence help in piecing together the life of Harappan civilization?

Ans

Although inconclusive but Harappan civilization flourished between 2700 BC to 1900 BC (Approx).

Archaeological evidences

- ① Seals: Seals like Pashupati, unicorn, animal motifs, and seals of Egypt & Mesopotamians in Harappan cities.



- ② Dancing girl from Mohenjodaro tells about 'bronze works' & metallurgical developments.

- ③ Terrocotta figurines of mother goddess and phallus shows religious practices.
- ④ Pottery: Types of pottery for various uses by rich, poor, etc. found → shows social division & technology
e.g. painted grey ware.
- ⑤ Burnt bricks: It was not found in Egyptian civilization shows that Harappans were more advanced.
- ⑥ fortification of area shows that flooding may have been a problem.
- ⑦ Tools: bronze and stone tools discovered → Agriculture & animal domestications.

- ⑧ Town planning : Discovery of Streets cutting at right angle, Drainage system, etc. shows advanced Geometry knowledge.
- ⑨ Great bath & Granary shows ritual importance. Granary to store surplus → led to trade.
- ⑩ Advance water management system in Dholavira.
- ⑪ Social divisions : As both a high citadel for Royals & a low residential area for Commoners discovered.

Harappan script has not been deciphered fully yet. Once deciphered it will reflect more about lives of such advanced civilization.

Q-7

How do you explain the decline of Buddhism & Jainism? What was the impact of these philosophies on Indian Society?

Ans

Jainism and Buddhism arose in 6th century BC in response to orthodox hinduism/Brahmanism.

Cause of Decline

Though Jainism still has some hold in few areas, Buddhism practically disappeared from India.

- ① Succumbing to rituals & Cerimonies over time though initially it has spirit of reforms
- ② Brahmanas reformed their religion to counter Buddhism & Jainism
e.g. declaring Buddha as a

Avatar of Vishnu.

- ③ Shift from Pali/Prakrit to Sanskrit caused disillusionment in masses.
- ④ Idol worship also started in Buddhism ex: Mahayana tradition.
- ⑤ Corruption in Sangha: Generous royal grants made people greedy & corrupt $\Rightarrow$ moral degradation.
- ⑥ Huns Invasion: destroyed monasteries & killed followers.

Impact on Society

Buddhism

- ① Showed easy way to Salvation to suffering masses
- ② Art & Architecture development
ex: Ajanta Caves, Tripitakas.

- ③ Promoted non-violence :
- ④ Social reforms : All sections of Society including Women & Shudras were allowed entry
- ⑤ Liberlized Brahmanism
- ⑥ Middle path doctrine to live a ~~harmonious~~ harmonious life

Jainism

- ① Merchant Community flourished with increasing trade & Commerce
- ② Art & Architecture eg: Sauranbelgola in Karnataka. , Agnya literature.
- ③ paintings : eg: Sittanvasal Caves by Pandya.

Not only in Ancient India but philosophies of Buddha and Mahavira continue to guide present Consumerist society & its people.

Q-8 Discuss the main Contributions of Gupta period & the Chola period to Indian heritage.

Ans Gupta age in the North India and Chola period in South India are referred as golden ages of heritage.

Gupta period

① Literature: Huge Corpus of Sanskrit literature created.

For ex: Meghaduta (Kalidasa).

② Science and Technology: Books of advanced mathematics written.

ex: Aryabhati (Aryabhatta)

Ashvangasamagraha (Vagabhatta)

③ Architecture: Nagara style Practically began this time.

ex: Dasavatara temple in Jhansi
having Curvilinear Sikhara

⇒ Stupas on Decline ⇒ but Dhamekh Stupa (Sarnath) famous

④ Paintings in Ajanta Caves were patronized by royals & individuals.

⑤ Sculptures: A new school developed at Sarnath. Highly dressed sculptures
ex: Sultangang buddha.

Chola period

① Architecture: Although Dravida style started during pallava rule but reached to Climax during chola period.

(a) Borhadeshwara temple at Thanjavore by Rajaraja I is architectural marvel

(b) Gangaikondcholapuram temple by Rajendra chola

② Sculptures: Temple walls were profusely decorated with sculptures. ex: Tanjore temple (dwarapalas).

③ Bronze Sculpture: Under patronage of Sembian dev huge progress made

ex: Nataraja dance sculpture, Ardhanarishwara sculpture etc

④ Spread of culture to foreign regions like Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Many heritage of Guptas and Cholas have got UNESCO world heritage site tags for ex: Tanjore temple etc. It has left a rich legacy to study socio-economic condition of their society

Q-19

Sanskrit literature in general & particularly in the Gupta age set a high watermark for the literary history of Ancient India. Discuss.

Ans

Gupta age is called as Golden age of literatures in Indian history.

Sanskrit literature (Including Gupta literature).

- ① Rajtarangini of Kalhana: talks about Kashmir's society. It gives a very realistic accounts.
- ② Kritanjaliya of Bharvi during Pallava times.
- ③ Vakyapadiya by Bhartṛhari during Harsha time
- ④ Gitā Govinda of Jaydev from odisha
- ⑤ Shishupala vadha by Magha

Gupta Sanskrit literature

- ⑥ Ashtadhyayi by Panini is a Sanskrit grammar text.
- ⑦ Mahabhasya by patanjali a Commentary on Ashtadhyayi
- ⑧ Kalidasa has written very famous Meghdutam, kumar-
ambharam and Raghuvamsum
e.t.c exploring various themes.
- ⑨ Aryabhattiya & Surya Siddhanta
by Aryabhata about Astrology
& mathematics.
- ⑩ Panchasiddhantika by Varehmihir
also on Astrology
- ⑪ Astangasamgraha by Vagabhatta
is a treaty on medicine

- (12) Svapnavasavadatta by Bhassa is epic literature.
- (13) Mrichakatika by Sudraka.
- (14) Laskumarcharita by Dandi'd.
- (15) In this period Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas were also compiled.
- (16) Kamasutra by Katyana showing life of urban people

In Gupta period all the Sanskrit literatures were 'Doornas' and none were tragedy. Sanskrit literature continues to enrich the knowledge about societies of that time.

Q-10 Although there were many differences between the Gandhara & Mathura art, they considerably influenced the Amravati School of art. Elaborate

Ans Gandhar, Mathura and Amravati schools mark a definite shift from symbol worship to image worship of Buddhism.

Differences between three schools

Gandhara	Mathura	Amravati
Grey Sandstone used	Red Sandstone used	White marbles
only Buddhist influence	All three religions Buddhism, Jainism & Hinduism	mainly Buddhist

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Patronage by Kushanas	Kushanas	Satvahanes
Had foreign influence ie Greco Roman, Central asian	Mainly Indigenous	Indigenous
Developed in North west India	Mathura in Uttarpradesh	Krishna Godavari basin, Andhra Pradesh.
<u>features:</u> - Buddha seated in <u>spiritual</u> mode → Wavy hairs → Unshaven face → fewer orna- ments → Eyes half closed → Protuberance not decorated much	→ Buddha is <u>delighted</u> <u>modest</u> mood. → Muscular <u>body</u> → <u>Saved</u> face <u>Straight</u> hair → Padmasana. → Halo <u>profusely</u> <u>decorated</u> .	→ <u>Narrative</u> <u>based</u> Sculpture → Jataka stories shown on panels (Previous life of Buddha).

Influence of Mathura & Gandhara on Amaravati School :

- ① Stupa buildings.
- ② Mahayana buddhism promoted by all three schools.
- ③ Ikshvakus after satvahana made great progress by building more sculptures of Buddha similar to mathura & Gandhara.

ex: In Nagarjunakonda,
Guntakal, Goli etc.

- ④ Narratives at amaravati inspired from Buddhisatras of Mathura School.

All the three schools continue to be a major tourist attraction & expound buddhist ideals.