

# NEXT IAS

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## ADVANCED INTEGRATED MENTORSHIP

### ART AND CULTURE ASSESSMENT TEST-6

(To be filled by candidate)

**Test Code :** TC307**Name of Candidate :** RITIKA CHITLANGIA**NEXT IAS Roll No. :** AIM24GCR075 **Date of Examination :** 30/7/23**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

## IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

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### DONT'S

1. Do not write your name or registration no. anywhere inside this Question-cum-Answer Booklet.
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### DO'S

1. Read the Instructions on the cover page and strictly follow them.
2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.



Q.1

The level of excellence of the administration of the Maurya kingdom was ahead of time and still relevant in present India? Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Mauryan Kingdom (300-100 BCE) was characterised by some of the most influential rulers like Chandragupta I and Ashoka, who contributed immensely to advancing Mauryan administration.

### Characteristics of Mauryan Administration

- 1) Devolution of power  $\Rightarrow$  divided the powers at central, intermediate and local levels  $\Rightarrow$  efficiency in governance.
- 2) Diversification of portfolios.  
 Eg: Sitadhyaks  $\rightarrow$  land revenue collector  
Akaraadhyaks  $\rightarrow$  sculpture and mining  
Shulkadhyaks  $\rightarrow$  Tolls  $\Rightarrow$  trade & commerce.
- 3) The tax collection system was efficient and characterised by efficient tax compliance.  
 $\Rightarrow$  if found guilty of non-tax payment  $\Rightarrow$  have to pay 8x more.

4) Use of rock edicts and inscriptions by Ashoka to communicate with the masses  $\Rightarrow$  eg: Sohagura inscription  $\rightarrow$  famine; Nandilghat inscription  $\rightarrow$  ancient trade routes etc.

Relevance of Mauryan Administration

1) 73<sup>rd</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> amendment  $\Rightarrow$  based on local self governments and principle of subsidiarity.

2) Role of cabinet ministers  $\Rightarrow$  specialisation of labour.

3) The introduction of modern services Tax  $\Rightarrow$  to improve tax compliance.

4) Use of technology  $\Rightarrow$  to disseminate information (RTI applications),

E-logis portal etc.

Therefore, it can be said with Mauryan administration certainty that was ahead of its time and a lot can be learnt for present day urbanisation & rural challenges.



Q.2

The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Rock-cut architecture can be considered as a spatial expression of early Indian art and history.

ART

- 1) The beginning of rock cut architecture  $\Rightarrow$  Mauryan times  
 Eg: Barabar and Nagarjuni caves  $\Rightarrow$   
 donated by Ashoka to Ajivikas  $\Rightarrow$   
beautifully polished and decorated.
- 2) Mural paintings  $\Rightarrow$  on the walls and  
roofs of caves  $\Rightarrow$  by Buddhist  
monks and nuns  $\Rightarrow$  Eg: Ajanta  $\rightarrow$   
dying princess, flying Apsara etc.
- 3) Sculptures  $\rightarrow$  most of rock-cut caves had  
beautiful sculptures.  
 Eg: Tataka stories, Avadana  $\Rightarrow$   
intricate stonework reflecting  
craftsmanship.
- 4) Advanced Technology during  
Pallavan kings  $\Rightarrow$  rock cut architectural  
temples.  
 Eg: Krishna Butter Ball, Kanchipuram,  
Ratha Temples etc.



## HISTORY

1) Absence of any rock-cut caves  $\Rightarrow$  Indus valley civilization  $\Rightarrow$  unaware about stone works  $\Rightarrow$  low levels of technological development.

2) Rise in rock-cut architecture during Buddhism.

Eg: Karle & Kanheri caves, Gomateshwar caves.

3) During Gupta period, Hinduism was predominant religion, but evidences of Buddhist caves  $\Rightarrow$  secular character.

Eg: Udaygiri & Khandagiri caves.

4) Evolution of stone temple architecture in South India, started from rock-cut caves.

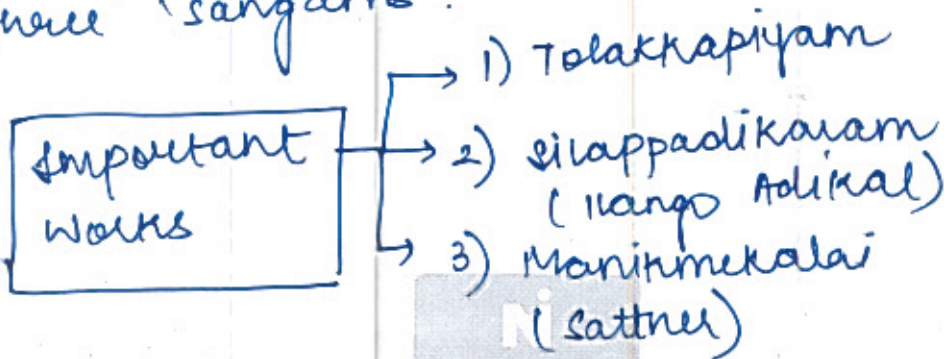
Eg: Mahabalipuram  $\Rightarrow$  stone temple.

Therefore, these rock-cut architecture are invaluable sources of history, and need to be preserved from various disturbances.

Q.3

Though not very useful from the point of view of a connected political history of South India, the Sangam literature portrays the social and economic conditions of its time with remarkable vividness. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Sangam literature refers to the rich literary works that originated during Pandyan kingdom, which held these 'sangams'.



### ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

- 1) Tolakkapiyam provides the classification of land into 'Tinaris' ⇒ division of economic resources.
  - Kurinji - hilly areas
  - Pallai - arid areas
  - Mullai - pastoral tracts
  - Mannam - agricultural land
  - Netal - maritime / coastal areas
- 2) Silappadikaram provides vivid description of market place ⇒ presence of barter system - Kurithapali
- 3) The division of occupation → farmers, shepherds, fishermen, washermen etc.
- 4) Sangam texts also mention presence



of guilds.

5) Presence of foreign trade → mentioned in Tolakkapiyam.

### SOCIETAL CONDITIONS

1) Manikkeralai → Buddhist nun → indicates presence of polytheistic society.

2) status of women → as shown in Kannagi's story (Silappadikaram) → primarily patriarchal society.

3) mentions of presence of 'shraivite' temples & traditions.

however, sangam texts don't provide details about political history:

→ lack of royal patronage

→ presence of unsorship systems

→ royal departments of literature → control over publications.

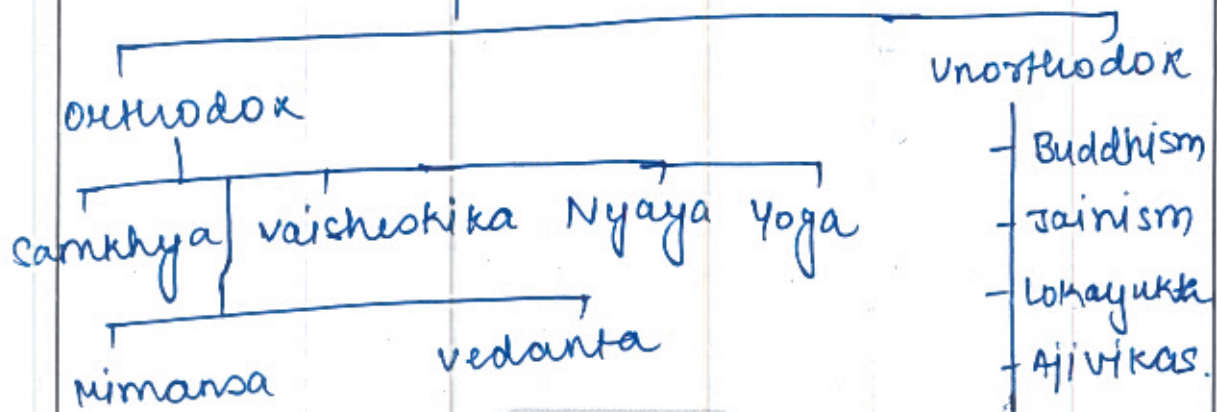
Hence, sangam texts are one of the oldest evidences of Tamil literature and are integral to preserve the multi-linguistic character of Indian society.

Q.4

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

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Indian philosophical thought can be classified as following:



contributions of southern india

1) mimansa philosophy → believes in significance of vedic rituals → developed by Jaimini (southern Indian saint).

2) Jainism → chandragupta I, along with Shardra bahu went to Kanwatara → initiation of Digambar sect.  
eg: Shivastambgola Inscription.

3) Nyaya & Yoga → universally revered → use of rationality and



logic.

Contributions of Northern India

1) Development of vedic philosophy /  
Orthodox school of thought → Ganga valley  
civilization.

2) Development of Charvaka thought  
by Brinaspati (Northern India).

3) Buddhism developed during  
Maukharan period → present day UP and  
Bihar.

4) The Shwetambari sect of Jainism,  
remained in Northern India.  
Eg: Parasnath Hill → Sharikhand →  
Jain temples.

Therefore, Indian philosophical  
thought reflects the geographical  
harmony of the country and can  
be used to interpret the world,  
develop spiritualism and promotion  
of harmony.

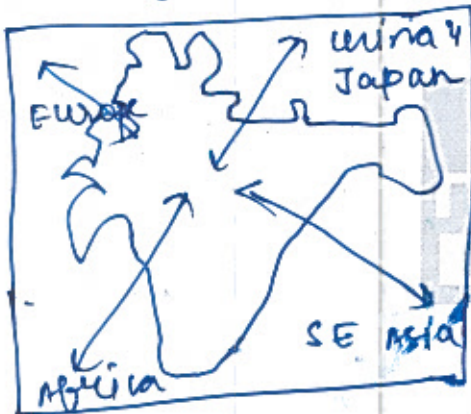
Q.5

How did the ancient trade routes connecting India to foreign countries contribute to the exchange and dissemination of culture? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

The rich civilizational culture of India had strong centrifugal tendencies, that was aided by trade and commercial ties.

### Role of Trade routes

1) Geographically central position



⇒ criss-crossing of several important trade routes connecting India to SE Asia, West Asia, Europe, Africa etc.

2) Trade with China ⇒ passing through silk route ⇒ spread of Mahayana

Buddhism in China.

3) Spice Trade between Java, Sumatra and India ⇒ as confirmed by Huen Tsang ⇒ 'Suvarnabhumi' ⇒ spread of Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism in Indonesia, Siam, Cambodia etc.

Eg: Suryavarmen II built Angkor Wat temple.



4) Commercial and Trade ties with ancient Greece & (Europe)  $\Rightarrow$  presence of Greek architectural influence  $\Rightarrow$  giving rise to Gandhara school of Art.

5) Birth of Mahayana Buddhism in India, during Kushana rule  $\Rightarrow$  influence of Central Asian rulers through extensive Trade routes.

6) Morcha's Navy power  $\Rightarrow$  considered important connector to Bay of Bengal  $\Rightarrow$  S.E. Asian Islands  $\Rightarrow$  Tamil culture in Sri Lanka etc.

Thus, ancient trade routes played an extremely important role in spread of culture & exchanges, owing to stable political kingdoms.

Q.6

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

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Harappan civilization, considered to be the 'Bronze Age', marked the first urbanisation of Indian civilization.

### Archaeological Evidence

#### (1) Architecture

a) Excavation in Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Kalibangan ⇒ reveal presence of:

(i) citadel → upper fortified town ⇒ important buildings ⇒ socio-economic influence.

(ii) lower town → commoners residential places.

b) Town planning → grid pattern of roads ⇒ indicates presence of city planning based on geometry and parallel systems of computation (science & technology).

c) Use of standardised bricks and pottery ⇒ strong system of economic & societal unification.



d) No evidences of palaces  $\Rightarrow$  absence of warrior class.

## (2) Sculpture

a) Brass statues  $\rightarrow$  Bearded man  $\Rightarrow$  central figure, possible religious connotation.

b) use of lost wax technique  $\Rightarrow$  skill-based sculpting  $\Rightarrow$  employment generator.  
eg: Dancing girl.

c) Terracotta figurines  $\rightarrow$  'mother goddess' religious figurines.

## (3) Seals (important source of archaeological evidence)

a) Religious purposes  $\rightarrow$  seals of animals like tiger, bull, rhinoceros, antelope (NO HORSE OR COW).

b) Educational significance  $\rightarrow$  presence of mathematical seals.

c) Trade ties  $\rightarrow$  with Mesopotamia, Bahrain, Iraq etc.

## (4) Burials

a) Burials found inside the house  $\Rightarrow$  practice of burying the dead inside the house.

b) Graves with lining of bricks, properly decorated  $\Rightarrow$  socio-economic stratification in the society.

c) Graves are filled with anklets, amulets, combs, pots, animals  $\Rightarrow$  belief in afterlife.

Therefore, even though 2500 years old, Harappan society remains relevant. Their intricate town planning, ritualistic buildings, presence of agriculture etc. has important lessons for 21st century urbanisation.



Q.7

How do you explain the decline of Buddhism and Jainism? What was the impact of these philosophies on Indian society? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Buddhism and Jainism originated as a reaction against Brahmanical society, dominance of upper castes, and questions related to spiritualism and way of life.

Reasons for decline of Buddhism

1) Post-Mauryan politics  $\Rightarrow$  dominated by Hindus  $\rightarrow$  Shunga dynasty, Kanva dynasty  $\rightarrow$  large-scale persecution of Buddhists.

2) Authoritarianism of monks and nuns  $\Rightarrow$  suppression and exploitation of marginalised sections.

3) Decline of Hinayana Buddhism  $\Rightarrow$  idolisation of 'Buddha'  $\rightarrow$  demand for idols, donations, vailty etc.  $\Rightarrow$  lost its earlier appeal.

## Decline of Jainism

1) Extreme forms of ascetism, especially in Digambara sect.

eg: Nudity, extreme non-violence ⇒ cannot practice agriculture etc.; completely renouncing 'grihast' lifestyle.

2) Declining patronage for Jain saints.

3) Rise in influence of Hinduism ⇒ Gupta period.

4) Disconnects with the masses.

Nonetheless, the philosophies of Buddhism & Jainism played a crucial role in revitalising the caste-ridden Hindu society.

## Impact of Buddhism & Jainism

1) gave rise to 'svamian' tradition ⇒ unorthodox philosophy ⇒ rejected the authority of vedas.



- 2) Provided an alternate system of faith  $\Rightarrow$  that provided equality and democracy to the masses.  
eg: Buddhist 'sanghas'  $\Rightarrow$  vote-based decision-making.
  - 3) Propounded the 'Middle Path'  $\Rightarrow$  wisdom lies in moderation, as per Buddha.
  - 4) Jainism gave the world the philosophy of non-violence and living in harmony with nature  $\Rightarrow$  inspired Gandhi's 'satyagraha'.
  - 5) Buddha and Mahavira  $\Rightarrow$  freed the society's marginalised groups from Brahmanical dominance  $\Rightarrow$  paved the way for Ambekar and others.
- Therefore, Buddhism & Jainism came as source of new perspective and gave further impetus to Bhakti-sufi traditions.  $\therefore$  their contribution to Indian philosophy remains invaluable.

Q.8

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

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Gupta period (4-6<sup>th</sup> century) and Cholas (9-13<sup>th</sup> century) were considered to be the watershed dynasties in modifying Indian heritage and culture.

### GUPTA PERIOD

#### (1) Architecture

1) Developed the 'Nagara style of temple architecture' ⇒ Introduction of Kalasha, Jagriti, Antaralaya etc.

2) Furthered the advancement of Buddhist stupas and caves ⇒  
Eg: Vidagghiri & Khandgiri caves, Bagh caves, Bharhut stupa, Chaubhandi stupa etc.

3) Advanced metallurgy & pillar inscriptions  
Eg: Mehrauli inscriptions.

#### (2) Literature




1) considered to be golden period for 'Sanskrit literature'.  
 Eg: Varahamihira's → 'Panchsidhantika'  
 and Brihat Samhita; Vasuyana's →  
Kamashastra etc.

(3) Dance and Music  
 1) → Development of 'Utharanas' → especially  
Kathak's Jaipur Utharana.  
 2) Development of Hindustani classical  
music.

### CHOLA PERIOD



(1) Architecture  
 1) 'Living' Chola Temples → Eg:  
Brhadeshwara temple at Thanjavur  
 2) Changai Kondacholapuram.  
 2) Introduction of 'vimana' →  octagonal  
pyramid.  
 3) Adornations of temples with  
bronze sculptures → Nataraj

(2) Literature  
 1) contributed to sangam literature.  
 2) Development of numerous epos and  
ballads.

### 3) Culture

1) Development of dance forms →  
Bharatnatyam (performed by  
girls 'Devadasi' → in temples)

2) Carnatic music → predecessor  
to Purandhar Das

3) Development of Tamil culture ⇒  
Eg: use of gold in temples etc.

4) High status of women  
Eg: Maha Seki Devi

5) Immense contribution to development  
of ancient shipbuilding and  
maritime exploration.

Eg: Bay of Bengal considered to be  
'chola lake'.

Thus, the contributions of Cholas &  
Kuppas to the rich cultural traditions  
of south & North India,  
respectively, remains timeless.



Q.9

Sanskrit literature in general and particularly in the Guptan age set a high watermark for the literary history of ancient India. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

sanskrit is one of the oldest languages, believed to be the 'mother' of modern-day Austro-asiatic and 'Dravidian' linguistic families.

### Sanskrit Literature

#### Pre-Guptan Age

1) beginning of Vedic Age.  
Eg: Rigveda → written in sanskrit.  
→ it became the language of 'priests' for performing various rituals and sacrifices.

2) chandas & manusmriti → composed by shruti in sanskrit

3) didactic parts of Mahabharata and Ramayana were written in sanskrit.

4) During Magadham empire → sanskrit was believed to be language of upper castes, while prakrit was used by lower castes.

Guptan Age → Golden period of sanskrit literary texts.

General characteristics

- 1) Most of the stories and texts were melodramatic → forceful happy endings.
- 2) Tells about socio-economic life ⇒ prevalence of sati, caste-system etc.

Development of sanskrit literary works

- 1) Kalidasa → some of the most popular sanskrit poems.

Eg: Meghadutam, Raghuvarnana etc.

- 2) Works of various astronomers, mathematicians and physicists.

(i) Varahamihira → wrote

'Panchsidhantika' → number system.



- (ii) Brahmasamhita → written by  
Brahmagupta → famous mathematician.  
(iii) Charak Samhita → written by Charak  
→ Father of Ayurveda.  
(iv) Sushruta Samhita → written by  
Sushruta → Father of surgery.

3) Gupta period also symbolised the  
epitome of urbanism ⇒ gave rise to  
Valsayana's → 'Harashuka'.

Therefore, Sanskrit literary tradition  
has existed since vedic times,  
but at present, due to increasing  
globalisation & over-emphasis on  
use of English ⇒ loss of Sanskrit  
tradition. The Govt. of India, along  
with UNESCO needs to work on  
preserving this rich literary  
tradition.



Q.10

'Although there were many differences between the Gandhara and Mathura art, they considerably influenced the Amravati school of art.' Elaborate.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks.

the evolution of post-Mauryan politics, including the influence of central Asian rulers led to development of Gandhara, Mathura and Amravati school of art.

Differences b/w Gandhara & Mathura sculptural traditions

- | <u>Gandhara</u>                                      | <u>Mathura</u>                     |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1) Patronage of <u>Seleucid and Shatras empire</u> . | 1) Patronage of <u>Kushanas</u> .  |
| 2) <u>Hellenistic influence</u>                      | 2) <u>Indigenously developed</u> . |
| 3) Use of <u>stucco and grey sandstone</u>           | 3) Use of <u>red sandstone</u> .   |
| 4) Influence of                                      | 4) Influence of                    |

Buddhism only

Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism.

Sculpture of Buddha

Sculpture of Buddha

- a) sad Buddha
- b) curly hair
- c) loose dresses
- d) less ornamentation
- e) more spiritualistic

- a) smiling Buddha
- b) straight hair
- c) tight dresses
- d) more ornamentation
- e) less spiritualistic

Influence of Gandhara - Mathura on  
Amravati school of Art

(A) Gandhara

→ Satvahanas patronised Amravati school → contemporaries of Kushanas & Central-Asian rulers like Shakas.

→ The Amravati school was also primarily influenced by Buddhism only.

→ Use of grey sandstone was popular in Amravati school.



## (B) Mathura

- 1) Indigenously developed → both Mathura & Amaravati school.
- 2) The Kushanas had the practice of depicting sculptures on panels ⇒ evolution of Jataka stories narrative description in Amaravati school of art.

Thus, the three distinguished schools of art i.e. Gandhara, Mathura and Amaravati, have contributed immensely in advancement of Indian sculptural tradition.



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