

100 Most Expected Questions from Ancient Indian History for SSC CGL/CHSL

Q.1) Who was the founder of the Maurya Empire?

Answer: Chandragupta Maurya
Explanation: Chandragupta Maurya established the Maurya Empire in 321 BCE with the help of Chanakya, overthrowing the Nanda dynasty.

Q.2) The Great Bath has been found at which Indus Valley site?

Answer: Mohenjo-daro
Explanation: The Great Bath, a sophisticated water tank, was excavated at Mohenjo-daro, reflecting urban planning and water management.

Q.3) Who was the author of Arthashastra?

Answer: Kautilya
Explanation: Kautilya, also known as Chanakya or Vishnugupta, authored the Arthashastra, a treatise on statecraft and economic policy.

Q.4) In which language was the Rigveda composed?

Answer: Sanskrit
Explanation: The Rigveda, the earliest Vedic text, was composed in ancient Sanskrit and contains hymns dedicated to deities.

Q.5) Ashoka's Dhamma was primarily aimed at

Answer: Promoting moral and ethical behavior
Explanation: Ashoka's Dhamma emphasized compassion, non-violence, respect for all religions, and social ethics.

Q.6) The famous rock-cut caves at Ajanta belong to which period?

Answer: Gupta Period
Explanation: Most Ajanta caves were built during the Gupta period and depict scenes from the life of Buddha.

Q.7) Who among the following was called the 'Napoleon of India'?

Answer: Samudragupta
Explanation: Samudragupta earned this title due to his extensive military campaigns, similar to Napoleon's conquests.

Q.8) The capital of Magadha during the time of Bimbisara was

Answer: Rajagriha
Explanation: Rajagriha (modern Rajgir) served as Bimbisara's capital and a significant center of early Buddhism and Jainism.

Q.9) Who introduced the silver coins known as 'Karshapanas'?

Answer: Mahajanapadas
Explanation: Karshapanas were early punch-marked coins issued by the Mahajanapadas before Mauryan rule.

Q.10) The Buddhist Council that resulted in the division into Hinayana and Mahayana took place during the reign of

Answer: Kanishka
Explanation: The 4th Buddhist Council under Kanishka led to the division of Buddhism into Hinayana and Mahayana sects.

Q.11) The Indus Valley Civilization is also known as

Answer: Harappan Civilization
Explanation: Named after Harappa, the

first excavated site, the civilization spanned from 2600 BCE to 1900 BCE.

Q.12) The earliest evidence of agriculture in the Indian subcontinent has been found at

Answer: Mehrgarh

Explanation: Mehrgarh in present-day Pakistan provides evidence of early farming and animal domestication.

Q.13) Who was the last ruler of the Maurya dynasty?

Answer: Brihadratha

Explanation: Brihadratha was assassinated by Pushyamitra Shunga, who then established the Shunga dynasty.

Q.14) The Ashokan inscriptions were written in which script in most parts of India?

Answer: Brahmi

Explanation: The Brahmi script was used widely in Ashoka's edicts across the Indian subcontinent.

Q.15) Which dynasty succeeded the Mauryas in Magadha?

Answer: Shunga Dynasty

Explanation: Pushyamitra Shunga overthrew the Mauryas and founded the Shunga dynasty around 185 BCE.

Q.16) The famous Chinese traveler Fa-Hien visited India during the reign of

Answer: Chandragupta II

Explanation: Fa-Hien visited India around 399-414 CE during the Gupta Empire to study Buddhism.

Q.17) Who was the Greek ambassador at the court of Chandragupta Maurya?

Answer: Megasthenes

Explanation: Megasthenes authored 'Indica,' a valuable source on Mauryan administration and society.

Q.18) The university of Nalanda was established during the reign of which dynasty?

Answer: Gupta Dynasty

Explanation: Nalanda University was founded in the 5th century CE, flourishing under Gupta patronage.

Q.19) Which Indus Valley site is located in Gujarat?

Answer: Lothal

Explanation: Lothal was a prominent trading port with a dockyard, located in modern Gujarat.

Q.20) The first Indian ruler who had a navy was

Answer: Chola Kings

Explanation: The Cholas, especially Rajendra Chola I, established a strong navy for overseas expeditions.

Q.21) Who was the first ruler to unify most of India under one administration?

Answer: Chandragupta Maurya

Explanation: Chandragupta Maurya consolidated most of India under the Mauryan rule for the first time.

Q.22) The term 'Vedas' is derived from which root word?

Answer: Vid

Explanation: 'Vid' means 'to know' in Sanskrit, reflecting the Vedas' status as knowledge repositories.

Q.23) The concept of 'Eightfold Path' is associated with which religion?

Answer: Buddhism

Explanation: The Eightfold Path forms the essence of Buddhist philosophy for ending suffering.

Q.24) Which ancient Indian text is considered the oldest surviving literature of India?

Answer: Rigveda

Explanation: Composed around 1500 BCE, the Rigveda is the oldest and most revered Hindu scripture.

Q.25) The 'Saptanga Theory' of state was given by?

Answer: Kautilya

Explanation: Kautilya's Arthashastra outlines seven essential limbs of a successful state.

Q.26) Which Harappan site is famous for a dockyard?

Answer: Lothal

Explanation: Lothal's dockyard suggests advanced maritime trade during the Harappan era.

Q.27) The main occupation of the people of the Indus Valley Civilization was?

Answer: Agriculture

Explanation: Archaeological findings indicate that farming was the primary occupation in Harappan cities.

Q.28) Ashoka fought which major battle before embracing Buddhism?

Answer: Kalinga War

Explanation: The devastating Kalinga War changed Ashoka's worldview and led to his conversion to Buddhism.

Q.29) Which ancient Indian king is known as the 'Father of Indian Renaissance'?

Answer: Harshavardhana

Explanation: Harsha revived classical Indian culture and literature after the decline of the Guptas.

Q.30) The earliest evidence of iron in India has been found at?

Answer: Atranjikhhera

Explanation: Iron tools and objects from Atranjikhhera date to around 1000 BCE.

Q.31) The term 'Dharmachakrapravartana' is associated with?

Answer: First Sermon of Buddha

Explanation: It means 'Turning of the Wheel of Dharma' and refers to Buddha's sermon at Sarnath.

Q.32) Which inscription mentions the achievements of Samudragupta?

Answer: Allahabad Pillar Inscription

Explanation: Composed by Harisena, it records Samudragupta's conquests and policies.

Q.33) Which Veda deals primarily with rituals?

Answer: Yajurveda

Explanation: The Yajurveda contains rituals and ceremonial mantras for yajnas.

Q.34) The 'Purushamedha' or human sacrifice is mentioned in which Veda?

Answer: Yajurveda

Explanation: Though symbolic, human sacrifice is described in the Yajurveda for religious rituals.

Q.35) The worship of 'Pasupati' seal in Indus Valley indicates which deity?

Answer: Shiva

Explanation: The seal shows a horned figure resembling an early form of Shiva.

Q.36) Who was the court poet of Harshavardhana?

Answer: Banabhatta

Explanation: Banabhatta wrote 'Harshacharita' and 'Kadambari' during Harsha's reign.

Q.37) The Satavahanas ruled in which part of India?

Answer: Deccan

Explanation: The Satavahanas ruled

central and southern India after the fall of the Mauryas.

Q.38) The term 'Upanishad' literally means?

Answer: Sitting near

Explanation: It implies sitting near a guru to receive spiritual knowledge.

Q.39) The capital of Kanishka's empire was?

Answer: Purushapura

Explanation: Purushapura (modern Peshawar) was Kanishka's capital and a hub of Mahayana Buddhism.

Q.40) Which Harappan site is known for bead-making?

Answer: Chanhudaro

Explanation: Chanhudaro was famous for craftsmanship, especially beads and ornaments.

Q.41) The famous Bull Seal was found at which Harappan site?

Answer: Mohenjo-daro

Explanation: The bull seal, symbolizing strength and virility, was found during excavations at Mohenjo-daro.

Q.42) The oldest university in ancient India was

Answer: Takshashila

Explanation: Takshashila University existed before Nalanda and attracted students from around the world.

Q.43) The Upanishads are primarily concerned with

Answer: Philosophy

Explanation: The Upanishads focus on metaphysical concepts like Atman, Brahman, and Moksha.

Q.44) Who was the founder of the Gupta dynasty?

Answer: Sri Gupta

Explanation: Sri Gupta founded the Gupta dynasty around the beginning of the 4th century CE.

Q.45) The famous grammarian Panini belonged to

Answer: Maurya Period

Explanation: Panini lived around the 4th century BCE and authored Ashtadhyayi, a Sanskrit grammar treatise.

Q.46) The Harappans did not know the use of

Answer: Iron

Explanation: The Harappan Civilization was a Bronze Age culture; iron came later during the Vedic age.

Q.47) Which ancient kingdom was ruled by the Cheras?

Answer: Kerala

Explanation: The Cheras ruled over parts of present-day Kerala and western Tamil Nadu.

Q.48) The concept of 'Trimurti' in Hinduism includes

Answer: Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva

Explanation: Trimurti refers to the trinity of creation (Brahma), preservation (Vishnu), and destruction (Shiva).

Q.49) The Indus Valley script is

Answer: Undeciphered

Explanation: Despite numerous attempts, the Harappan script has not been conclusively deciphered yet.

Q.50) Who was the founder of Jainism?

Answer: Rishabhanatha

Explanation: Rishabhanatha was the first Tirthankara; Mahavira was the 24th and last.

Q.51) The Jataka tales are associated with

Answer: Buddhism

Explanation: Jataka tales narrate stories of the previous births of Lord Buddha.

Q.52) Who built the Iron Pillar near Qutub Minar?

Answer: Chandragupta II

Explanation: The Iron Pillar in Delhi, known for its rust-resistant composition, was erected during Gupta rule.

Q.53) The 'Tripitakas' are sacred texts of

Answer: Buddhism

Explanation: The Tripitakas — Vinaya, Sutta, and Abhidhamma Pitaka — are the three main divisions of Buddhist scriptures.

Q.54) The famous Nalanda University was destroyed by

Answer: Bakhtiyar Khilji

Explanation: Nalanda was destroyed in the 12th century CE by Bakhtiyar Khilji, a Turkish invader.

Q.55) Which dynasty is associated with the Mehrauli Iron Pillar?

Answer: Gupta Dynasty

Explanation: The pillar was erected during the reign of Chandragupta II of the Gupta dynasty.

Q.56) The Harappan civilization was discovered in the year

Answer: 1921

Explanation: Harappa was discovered by Daya Ram Sahni in 1921, followed by Mohenjo-daro in 1922.

Q.57) The Rigveda is divided into

Answer: 10 Mandalas

Explanation: The Rigveda contains 10 mandalas or books, each with hymns dedicated to various deities.

Q.58) Who issued the first known land grant in India?

Answer: Satavahanas

Explanation: The Satavahanas were among the first to issue land grants to Brahmins and religious institutions.

Q.59) The term 'Mahajanapadas' refers to

Answer: Great Kingdoms

Explanation: By 6th century BCE, large territorial states were called Mahajanapadas.

Q.60) The system of 'Ashvamedha Yajna' was performed to

Answer: Proclaim sovereignty

Explanation: The horse sacrifice was conducted to assert a king's supremacy over surrounding regions.

Q.61) The most important deity of the Rigvedic period was

Answer: Indra

Explanation: Indra, the god of rain and thunder, was the most worshipped deity in the Rigveda.

Q.62) Which Mauryan ruler is known for his religious tolerance?

Answer: Ashoka

Explanation: Ashoka promoted religious harmony and respected all faiths after embracing Buddhism.

Q.63) Which early Vedic tribe is associated with the Battle of Ten Kings?

Answer: Bharatas

Explanation: The Bharatas, led by King Sudas, defeated a confederacy of ten tribes in this Rigvedic battle.

Q.64) The ancient port town of Tamralipti was located in

Answer: Bengal

Explanation: Tamralipti was a significant

port on the eastern coast during the Maurya and Gupta periods.

Q.65) Which Veda contains the Gayatri Mantra?

Answer: Rigveda

Explanation: The Gayatri Mantra, dedicated to the Sun God, is found in the Rigveda (Mandala 3).

Q.66) The Chola kings were great patrons of

Answer: Art and Architecture

Explanation: The Cholas built magnificent temples and promoted bronze sculpture and Dravidian architecture.

Q.67) The Mauryan administration was highly

Answer: Centralized

Explanation: The Mauryan Empire was known for its efficient and centralized bureaucratic system.

Q.68) Who was the last great ruler of the Gupta dynasty?

Answer: Skandagupta

Explanation: Skandagupta defended the empire from Hun invasions but the empire weakened after his death.

Q.69) The Buddhist text 'Milindapanho' is a dialogue between

Answer: Menander and Nagasena

Explanation: Milindapanho records a philosophical dialogue between Indo-Greek king Menander (Milinda) and monk Nagasena.

Q.70) Which river is most mentioned in the Rigveda?

Answer: Saraswati

Explanation: The Rigveda frequently mentions the now-lost Saraswati River more than the Ganga.

Q.71) The famous 'Amravati School' of art is associated with

Answer: Buddhism

Explanation: The Amravati School, known for its white marble sculptures, developed under the Satavahanas.

Q.72) The term 'Gahapati' in ancient India referred to

Answer: Householder

Explanation: Gahapati was the term for a householder or head of a household in Vedic and Buddhist texts.

Q.73) The title 'Mahamahamata' is associated with

Answer: Ashoka's officials

Explanation: Mahamahamatas were high-ranking officials appointed by Ashoka to spread Dhamma.

Q.74) The 'Brahmanas' are texts related to

Answer: Rituals and Ceremonies

Explanation: The Brahmanas provide details of the rituals and explanations of the Vedic hymns.

Q.75) Which king is known for the concept of 'Rajdharma'?

Answer: Ashoka

Explanation: Ashoka emphasized the ethical duties of kingship known as Rajdharma based on Dhamma.

Q.76) The 'Angas' are associated with which religion?

Answer: Jainism

Explanation: The Angas are the sacred texts of Jainism based on Mahavira's teachings.

Q.77) The 'Charvaka' school is known for

Answer: Materialism

Explanation: The Charvaka school

rejected metaphysical concepts and promoted a materialistic worldview.

Q.78) The first Buddhist Council was held at

Answer: Rajagriha

Explanation: The First Council was held shortly after Buddha's death under the patronage of Ajatashatru.

Q.79) The famous ancient text 'Mudrarakshasa' was written by

Answer: Vishakhadatta

Explanation: It is a political drama describing Chandragupta Maurya's rise to power.

Q.80) Who introduced the calendar based on the Saka era?

Answer: Kanishka

Explanation: Kanishka started the Saka Era in 78 CE, still used in Indian national calendars.

Q.81) The oldest Jain text is

Answer: Acharanga Sutra

Explanation: The Acharanga Sutra contains the earliest teachings of Lord Mahavira.

Q.82) The caves at Karle and Bhaja belong to

Answer: Buddhist tradition

Explanation: These rock-cut caves near Pune were early Buddhist monastic sites.

Q.83) Who among the following first issued coins bearing his name?

Answer: Indo-Greeks

Explanation: The Indo-Greeks, especially Menander, were among the first to issue inscribed coins in India.

Q.84) The Harappan weights and measures were based on

Answer: Binary system

Explanation: The Harappans used standardized weights based on binary multiples like 1, 2, 4, 8, 16.

Q.85) The term 'Brahmavarta' in Vedic literature refers to

Answer: Land of the Aryans

Explanation: Brahmavarta is the sacred land where Aryans first settled, near the Saraswati-Drishadvati region.

Q.86) The Vishnu Purana is primarily

Answer: Religious text

Explanation: It is one of the 18 major Puranas dedicated to the worship of Lord Vishnu.

Q.87) The earliest Buddhist texts were written in

Answer: Pali

Explanation: Early Buddhist scriptures were written in Pali, making teachings accessible to the masses.

Q.88) The earliest Jain councils were held at

Answer: Pataliputra and Vallabhi

Explanation: The first two Jain Councils compiled the teachings of Mahavira in written form.

Q.89) The Megalithic culture is known for

Answer: Burial practices

Explanation: Megaliths were large stone structures used to mark graves or burial sites.

Q.90) The famous ruler of the Sangam age was

Answer: Karikala Chola

Explanation: Karikala was a powerful early Chola ruler known for building irrigation tanks and dams.

Q.91) Who built the Sanchi Stupa?

Answer: Ashoka

Explanation: Ashoka originally built the Sanchi Stupa, later expanded by later rulers.

Q.92) The Vedic economy was primarily based on

Answer: Pastoralism

Explanation: Early Vedic society depended largely on cattle rearing and later on agriculture.

Q.93) The Indo-Aryans came to India from

Answer: Central Asia

Explanation: Most historians believe Indo-Aryans migrated from Central Asia into north-western India.

Q.94) The word 'Arya' in the Rigveda means

Answer: Noble

Explanation: 'Arya' referred to a cultural and linguistic group, not a race, and meant noble or respectable.

Q.95) The 'Silappatikaram' is written in

Answer: Tamil

Explanation: It is one of the five great epics of Tamil literature written during the Sangam age.

Q.96) The title 'Dakshinapatheshwara' was assumed by

Answer: Gautamiputra Satakarni

Explanation: Gautamiputra Satakarni was a powerful Satavahana ruler who defeated the Shakas in the south.

Q.97) The river Ganga is first mentioned in

Answer: Rigveda

Explanation: Though rarely mentioned, the Ganga appears in the later mandalas of the Rigveda.

Q.98) The Ajivika sect was founded by

Answer: Makkhali Gosala

Explanation: Makkhali Gosala was a contemporary of Mahavira and Gautama Buddha and founded the Ajivika sect.

Q.99) The founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty was

Answer: Dantidurga

Explanation: Dantidurga established the Rashtrakuta dynasty in the 8th century CE in the Deccan.

Q.100) The term 'Bhagavata' refers to the followers of

Answer: Lord Vishnu

Explanation: Bhagavatas were Vaishnavite devotees who worshipped Vishnu or Krishna as the supreme deity.