**01 / QUESTION**

Name two major cities of the Indus civilization.

Indus civilization

**02 / QUESTION**

Approximately when did the Mature Harappan urban civilization flourish?

Indus civilization

**03 / QUESTION**

What features show the planning of major Indus cities?

Indus civilization

**04 / QUESTION**

What was the Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro?

Indus civilization

**05 / QUESTION**

What evidence suggests organized Indus trade?

Indus civilization

**06 / QUESTION**

Why is our knowledge of Indus government and religion limited?

Indus civilization

**02 / ANSWER**

About 2600-1900 BCE.

Indus civilization

**01 / ANSWER**

Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, both in present-day Pakistan.

Indus civilization

**04 / ANSWER**

A large brick-lined water tank. It may have served communal or ritual bathing, but its precise function is uncertain.

Indus civilization

**03 / ANSWER**

Organized streets, brick buildings, wells, and elaborate drainage systems.

Indus civilization

**06 / ANSWER**

The Indus script remains undeciphered, so interpretations rely heavily on archaeological evidence.

Indus civilization

**05 / ANSWER**

Standardized weights, seals, specialized crafts, and goods exchanged over long distances, including with Mesopotamia.

Indus civilization

**07 / QUESTION**

What happened to major Indus cities after about 1900 BCE?

Indus civilization

**08 / QUESTION**

What factors help explain Indus urban decline?

Indus civilization

**09 / QUESTION**

What is a monsoon?

Geography

**10 / QUESTION**

Who were the Indo-Aryans in early Indian history?

Vedic society

**11 / QUESTION**

What are the Vedas?

Vedic religion

**12 / QUESTION**

Name the four Vedas.

Vedic religion

**08 / ANSWER**

Changing monsoon patterns, regional river and environmental changes, and disrupted economic networks likely interacted. A single destructive invasion is not an established explanation.

Indus civilization

**07 / ANSWER**

Many declined or were abandoned as settlement shifted toward smaller communities. The population and its cultural traditions did not simply disappear.

Indus civilization

**10 / ANSWER**

Indo-Aryan-speaking groups whose migrations and interactions in South Asia helped shape Vedic language and culture during the second millennium BCE.

Vedic society

**09 / ANSWER**

A seasonal wind system that brings pronounced wet and dry seasons; monsoon rainfall strongly affects agriculture in South Asia.

Geography

**12 / ANSWER**

Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda.

Vedic religion

**11 / ANSWER**

Collections of sacred hymns, chants, ritual formulas, and other religious material composed in Vedic Sanskrit.

Vedic religion

**13 / QUESTION**

Which Veda contains the oldest major collection of Vedic hymns?

Vedic religion

**14 / QUESTION**

How were the Vedas preserved before being written down?

Vedic religion

**15 / QUESTION**

What role did Brahmins play in Vedic society?

Vedic religion

**16 / QUESTION**

What were the four varnas in the Brahmanical social ideal?

Social hierarchy

**17 / QUESTION**

How does jati differ from varna?

Social hierarchy

**18 / QUESTION**

How could religion legitimize social hierarchy?

Social hierarchy

**14 / ANSWER**

Through carefully regulated oral memorization and recitation across generations.

Vedic religion

**13 / ANSWER**

The Rigveda.

Vedic religion

**16 / ANSWER**

Brahmins: priests; Kshatriyas: rulers and warriors; Vaishyas: agriculturalists and merchants; Shudras: service and laboring groups.

Social hierarchy

**15 / ANSWER**

They were ritual specialists and teachers who preserved sacred learning and performed sacrifices.

Vedic religion

**18 / ANSWER**

Religious texts could portray social duties and rank as part of a sacred order, giving inequality religious justification.

Social hierarchy

**17 / ANSWER**

Varna is a broad fourfold social classification; jati refers to the many hereditary social communities that shaped marriage, occupation, and local status.

Social hierarchy

**19 / QUESTION**

What are the Upanishads?

Indian thought

**20 / QUESTION**

What is samsara?

Indian thought

**21 / QUESTION**

What is karma?

Indian thought

**22 / QUESTION**

What are dharma and moksha in Brahmanical or Hindu traditions?

Indian thought

**23 / QUESTION**

What do Brahman and atman refer to in many Upanishadic teachings?

Indian thought

**24 / QUESTION**

Who was Mahavira?

Jainism

**20 / ANSWER**

The cycle of birth, death, and rebirth.

Indian thought

**19 / ANSWER**

Texts within the Vedic tradition that explore questions about the self, ultimate reality, knowledge, and liberation.

Indian thought

**22 / ANSWER**

Dharma concerns right conduct, duty, and sustaining order. Moksha is liberation from samsara. Their meanings vary across texts and traditions.

Indian thought

**21 / ANSWER**

Action and its consequences; in Indian religious traditions, actions can influence future experience and rebirth.

Indian thought

**24 / ANSWER**

A major teacher of Jainism, traditionally recognized as its twenty-fourth tirthankara, or spiritual pathfinder.

Jainism

**23 / ANSWER**

Brahman is ultimate reality; atman is the self. Many Upanishadic passages explore their relationship or identity.

Indian thought

**25** / **QUESTION**

What is ahimsa?

Jainism

**26** / **QUESTION**

Who was Siddhartha Gautama?

Buddhism

**27** / **QUESTION**

What are the Four Noble Truths?

Buddhism

**28** / **QUESTION**

What are the eight parts of the Noble Eightfold Path?

Buddhism

**29** / **QUESTION**

What is the Middle Way?

Buddhism

**30** / **QUESTION**

What is nirvana?

Buddhism

**26 / ANSWER**

The historical teacher known as the Buddha, meaning the Awakened One.

Buddhism

**25 / ANSWER**

Nonviolence or non-harming toward living beings; it is especially central to Jain ethics.

Jainism

**28 / ANSWER**

Right view, intention, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, and concentration.

Buddhism

**27 / ANSWER**

Suffering or unsatisfactoriness exists; craving sustains it; its cessation is possible; the Noble Eightfold Path leads toward that cessation.

Buddhism

**30 / ANSWER**

Liberation associated with the ending of craving, hatred, and delusion, and freedom from the cycle of rebirth.

Buddhism

**29 / ANSWER**

A path avoiding both indulgence in sensual pleasures and extreme self-mortification.

Buddhism

**31 / QUESTION**

What is the Sangha?

Buddhism

**32 / QUESTION**

How did Buddhism challenge Brahmanical religious authority?

Buddhism

**33 / QUESTION**

How did merchants and trade networks help Buddhism spread?

Buddhism

**34 / QUESTION**

What is a key distinction between Theravada and Mahayana traditions?

Buddhism

**35 / QUESTION**

How did Persian rule connect northwestern South Asia to a wider world?

India and the West

**36 / QUESTION**

When did Alexander the Great campaign in northwestern South Asia?

India and the West

**32 / ANSWER**

It rejected the necessity of Vedic ritual and hereditary priestly status for liberation, emphasizing ethical conduct, insight, and practice.

Buddhism

**31 / ANSWER**

The Buddhist community; in a narrower sense, the community of ordained monks and nuns.

Buddhism

**34 / ANSWER**

Theravada emphasizes the arhat path and its Pali textual tradition; Mahayana gives special prominence to the bodhisattva ideal of Buddhahood for the benefit of all beings.

Buddhism

**33 / ANSWER**

Donations supported monasteries, while travel and trading routes connected Buddhist communities and carried teachings across regions.

Buddhism

**36 / ANSWER**

In 327-325 BCE, including his crossing of the Indus and the Battle of the Hydaspes in 326 BCE.

India and the West

**35 / ANSWER**

Achaemenid control brought parts of the northwest into imperial networks of administration, exchange, and communication.

India and the West

**37** / **QUESTION**

Who founded the Mauryan Empire?

Mauryan Empire

**38** / **QUESTION**

What was the Mauryan capital?

Mauryan Empire

**39** / **QUESTION**

What institutions helped the Mauryas govern a large empire?

Mauryan Empire

**40** / **QUESTION**

What is the Arthashastra?

Mauryan Empire

**41** / **QUESTION**

Who was Ashoka?

Ashoka

**42** / **QUESTION**

Which war did Ashoka's inscriptions describe with remorse?

Ashoka

**38 / ANSWER**

Pataliputra, near modern Patna in the Ganges region.

Mauryan Empire

**37 / ANSWER**

Chandragupta Maurya, in the late fourth century BCE, around 321 BCE.

Mauryan Empire

**40 / ANSWER**

A treatise on statecraft, administration, economics, and political strategy, traditionally associated with Kautilya. Its surviving form developed over time.

Mauryan Empire

**39 / ANSWER**

A royal administration, provincial officials, taxation, a large army, and networks of roads and communication.

Mauryan Empire

**42 / ANSWER**

The conquest of Kalinga, around 260 BCE, because of the deaths, suffering, and deportations it caused.

Ashoka

**41 / ANSWER**

A third-century BCE Mauryan emperor who supported Buddhism and promoted ethical government through public inscriptions.

Ashoka

**43** / **QUESTION**

What did Ashoka's dhamma emphasize?

Ashoka

**44** / **QUESTION**

How did Ashoka communicate his policies to his subjects?

Ashoka

**45** / **QUESTION**

Did Ashoka's support for Buddhism mean he abolished other religions or the existing social order?

Religion and government

**46** / **QUESTION**

Where did the Kushans establish their empire?

Kushans

**47** / **QUESTION**

Which Kushan ruler is especially associated with Buddhist patronage?

Kushans

**48** / **QUESTION**

How did the Kushan Empire help connect India with other regions?

Kushans

**44 / ANSWER**

Through edicts inscribed on rocks and pillars in different parts of his empire.

Ashoka

**43 / ANSWER**

Ethical conduct, restraint in harming living beings, respect for parents and teachers, generosity, and respect among religious communities.

Ashoka

**46 / ANSWER**

Across parts of Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and northern India, especially during the first and second centuries CE.

Kushans

**45 / ANSWER**

No. He encouraged respect among religious groups and ethical conduct while retaining imperial government and much of the existing social structure.

Religion and government

**48 / ANSWER**

It linked Central Asian and South Asian trade routes and supported cultural exchange, including the spread of Buddhism and Gandharan art.

Kushans

**47 / ANSWER**

Kanishka, a ruler of the second century CE.

Kushans