

IASbaba's Daily Prelims Test [Day 32]

TOPIC: Ancient History & Culture

1. 'Mesolithic stage' was the transitional stage between the Paleolithic and Neolithic stage. Which of the following is/are the characteristic/s of Mesolithic stage?

1. Use of microliths, i.e. small stone tools.
2. Shift in the pattern of hunting from big game to small game hunting.
3. Origin of agriculture and beginning of domestication of animals.

Select the correct code from below.

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 3 only
4. 2 and 3 only

Ans: (1)

Explanation:

Mesolithic tools are microliths. They are very small in size and length ranges from 1 to 8 cm. Blade, Core, Points etc. are the main type of Mesolithic tools.

Origin of agriculture and beginning of domestication of animals considered as main feature of Neolithic stage of culture.

2. "Indus valley civilization (IVC)" refers to large number of cities, towns, and villages which flourished in 3rd millennium B.C. Which of the following Statement/s is/are correct regarding IVC sites?

1. Mohenjo-daro first revealed the existence of Indus valley civilization (IVC).
2. Harappa is the largest site of Indus valley civilization (IVC).

Select the correct code from below.

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (4)

Explanation:

Harappa was the first site to be excavated. In 1921, Dayaram Sahni carried out excavation at Harappa, located at the banks of river Ravi.

In archeology there is a convention that when an ancient culture is described, it is named after the modern name of the site which first revealed the existence of that culture. Hence the name Harappan civilization.

Rakhigarhi is the largest site of Indus valley civilization (IVC), recently founded.

3. Consider the following statements regarding "Black and Red Ware culture".

1. Characteristic feature of pottery of this culture is the black colour inside and near the rim outside and red colour over the rest of the body.
2. Black and Red Ware pottery was made of fine clay and was mostly wheel turned.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (3)

Explanation:

Pottery was black colour inside and near the rim outside and red colour over the rest of the body. This colour combination was obtained by inverted firing.

Black and Red Ware pottery was made of fine clay and was mostly wheel turned, though some pots were handmade.

4. Which of the following cause best describes decline of Harappan culture?

1. Floods and earthquakes.
2. Ecological imbalances.
3. The shifting away of Indus River.
4. Barbarian invasions.

Ans: (2)

Explanation:

Floods and earthquakes: Decline of settlements outside the Indus valley could not be explained by this theory. Also a river cannot be dammed by tectonic effect.

The shifting away of Indus River: this only explains desertion of Mohenjodaro but not its decline.

Barbarian invasions: Decline of Harappa began around 1800 B.C. whereas Aryans came not earlier than 1500 B.C. So Harappan and Aryan clash seems difficult to accept.

Ecological imbalances: According to this ecological imbalance resulted in decline of forest and grass cover. There was more flood and drought and hence depletion of subsistence base. This caused strain on entire economy and there seems to have been a gradual movement away to areas which offered better subsistence. But even this theory is not beyond criticism.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Early Vedic Society.

1. Early Vedic Society was tribal society in which social relations were based on kinship ties.
2. Early Vedic Society was matriarchal.
3. Women were educated and they had access to the assemblies.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. All the above

Ans: (2)

Explanation:

Early Vedic Society was patriarchal. Birth of son was preferred. Importance given to the male member is reflected in the hymns of Rigveda.

Even though Society was patriarchal, Women were educated and they had access to the assemblies. There are instances where women composed hymns.

6. Consider the following statements regarding life of Buddha.

1. Buddha attained enlightenment under a papal tree at Saranath.
2. Buddha delivered his first sermon at Bodhgaya.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (4)

Explanation:

Buddha attained enlightenment under a papal tree at Bodhgaya.

Buddha delivered his first sermon at Saranath.

7. Which one among the following is not one of the 'ratnatraya' according to Jainisim?

1. Right belief.
2. Right knowledge.
3. Right livelihood.
4. Right action.

Ans: (3)

Explanation:

Right belief, Right knowledge, Right action are the 'ratnatrayas' according to Jainism.

8. Consider the following statements regarding Asoka's policy of Dhamma.

1. Policy of Dhamma was an attempt to solve some of the complex problems that a complex society faced.
2. Asoka aimed at promoting Buddhism through the policy of Dhamma.

Which of the above statement/s is /are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (1)

Explanation:

Policy of Dhamma did not aim at promoting Buddhism. Had this been the case he would have utilized the organization of 'sangha' to propagate Dhamma rather than creation of institution of 'Dhammamahamattas'.

Also Asokan rock edicts depicts that the duty of Dhammamahamattas included working for the brahmanas and sramanas.

9. Consider the following statements regarding Buddhist rock cut architecture.

1. Vihara is a shrine cell with a votive stupa place in the centre.
2. Chaityas were primarily cut out of rocks for the residence of monks.

Which of the above statement/s is /are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (4)

Explanation:

A Chaitya is a shrine cell with a votive stupa place in the centre.

Viharas were primarily cut out of rocks for the residence of monks.

10. Consider the following statements regarding “Amaravati School of art”.

1. The Amaravati School art and architecture was the indigenous.
2. The Amaravati School developed under the patronage of the Satavahanas of the Andhra region.
3. Sculptures were carved out of red sandstone.

Which of the above statement/s is/are *not* correct?

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 3 only
3. 1 and 2 only
4. All the above

Ans: (2)

Expalnation:

The Amaravati school art and architecture was the indigenous. The Amaravati School of art developed under the patronage of the Satavahanas of the Andhra region.

Sculptures were carved out of white marble.

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