

Kinship, Caste and Class

Que 1: Evaluate the different steps taken by scholars to prepare the critical edition of Mahabharata. *Marks :(3)*

Ans:

- Collecting manuscripts written in various languages
- Comparing verses from each manuscripts
- Selected common verses and published

Que 2: Define exogamy and endogamy. *Marks :(2)*

Ans:

- Marriage outside the kin group- Exogamy
- Marriage with in the kin group- Endogamy

Que 3: The patriline system was not strictly followed in ancient India. Substantiate. *Marks :(3)*

Ans:

- If no sons, brothers succeeded
- Kinsmen claimed the throne
- Women like Prabhavati Gupta ruled

Que 4: Write a short note on the different forms of marriages mentioned in the Mahabharata. *Marks :(4)*

Ans:

- Eight forms of marriages
- Four were good and four were condemned
- Endogamy
- Exogamy

Que 5: 'Two rules about gotra were particularly important' - Mention them. *Marks :(2)*

Ans:

- Women had to give up their father's gotra and to adopt husband's gotra after marriage.
- Members of same gotra could not marry

Que 6: The Satavahana rulers did not follow *gotra* rules mentioned in Brahmanical texts. Substantiate.

Marks :(3)

Ans:

- They retained the names of their father's gotra
- Women did not adopted husband's gotra
- Endogamy was followed (marriage within gotra)

Que 7: Explain the four-fold varna system mentioned in the Dharmasastras and Dharmasutras.

Marks :(4)

Ans:

- Bharhmin - Study and teach Vedas- give and receive gifts- perform sacrifices and get sacrifices performed
- Kshatriya - Warfare, protect people, administer justice, study Vedas, get sacrifices performed, make gifts
- Vaishyas - study Vedas, get sacrifices performed, make gifts, agriculture, pastoralism, trade
- Shudras - Serving the above three varnas

Que 8: How did Brahmanas enforce *Varna* norms in the society?

Marks :(4)

Ans:

- Asserted that *Varna* order was of divine origin
- Advised kings to ensure that these norms were followed within their kingdom
- Persuaded people that their status was determined by birth

Que 9: Name any two non-kshatriya dynasties in ancient India

Marks :(2)

Ans: Mauryas and Shakas

Que 10: Define *Varna* and *Jati*.

Marks :(4)

Ans:

- *Varnas* are four in number - Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras
- *Jati* was based on birth.
- No restriction on the number of *Jati*

Que 11: What information do we get from the Mandasor inscription regarding guild and shreni?

Marks :(4)

Ans:

- Guild of silk weavers of Lata (Gujarat) later migrated to Mandasor
- Membership was based on shared craft specialisation
- Some members adopted other occupation
- Shared more than one profession
- Collectively decided to invest their wealth earned through craft to construct temple in honour of the Sun God

**Que 12: Who were Chandalas? Explain their duties mentioned in *Manusmriti*.
Marks :(5)**

Ans:

- People who engaged in polluting activities such as handling corpses and dead animals.
- Lived outside the village
- Used discarded utensils
- Wear cloths of dead and ornaments of iron
- Could not walk into the villages and cities in night
- Dispose dead bodies of those who had no relatives
- Served as executioners

**Que 13: Examine how varna regulated the access to property right in ancient India.
Marks :(4)**

Ans:

- Varna was a criteria for access to wealth
- Brahmanas and Kshatriyas enjoyed major share.
- Shudras were obliged to serve others. No property right to them.

**Que 14: Examine the factors to be considered by historians while analysing a text like Mahabharata.
Marks :(4)**

Ans:

- Language and content
- Kind of the text
- Authors, perspectives and ideas
- Intended audience
- Date and place

**Que 15: Explain the views connected with the authorship and date of Mahabharata.
Marks :(4)**

Ans:

- Original story composed by Sutas
- 5th Century BCE Brahmanas took over the story.
- Composition between 200 BCE to 200 CE
- Period of Vishnu worship
- 200 CE to 400 CE sections resembling Manu smriti added.
- So many authors and additions. But traditionally its composition is attributed to sage Vyasa.

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Que 17: What are the findings of B.B. Lal in the Hastinapura excavation ? *Marks :(4)*

Ans:

- 1951-52 excavated the village of Hastinapura near Meerut
- Found five occupational groups
- Second phase- No definite plans of houses- walls of mud and mud bricks
- Third phase- house built of mud brick and burnt bricks- soakage jars and brick drains were found
- Terracotta ring wells

Que 18: Why is Mahabharata considered a dynamic text ? *Marks :(5)*

Ans:

- Versions of the epic written in different languages
- Stories originated or circulate in different regions included in the epic
- Central story of the epic was retold in different ways
- Episodes were depicted in sculptures and paintings
- Provided themes to performing arts like plays, dance etc
- Provided themes to different texts like Randamoozham and Kunti O Nishadi

Que 19: Match the following *Marks :(4)*

A

B

- a. V S Sukthankar - Vakataka
- b. Rudradaman - Hastinapura excavation
- c. B B Lal - Critical edition of Mahabharata
- d. Prabhavati Gupta - Sudarsana lake

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|----------------|------------------------|
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| b. China | - Gotami-puta-Satakani |
| c. Mlechchhas | - Ekalavya |
| d. Nishadas | - Fa Xian |

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