PRELIMS PYQ NOTES (1995-2018)
ANCIENT HISTORY

SOURCES OF ANCIENT HISTORY:

1997:

- Which script of ancient India was written from right to left=> Kharosthi
  - Left to Right scripts: Brahmi, Nandnagari, Sharada

1998:

- Which ancient Indian records is the earliest royal order to preserve foodgrains to be utilized during the crises in the country=> Sohagaura Copper plate
  - Rummindei pillar-edict of Ashoka [aka 'Lumbini pillar edict']
  - Prayaga-Prasasti [aka Allahabad inscription of 4th century AD Samudragupta]
  - Mehrauli pillar inscription of Chandra [aka Iron pillar in Delhi]

1999:

- Travellers who visited India: chronology=> Megasthenese - Fa-Hien - Hieun-Tsang - I-Tsing
  - [Megasthenese: came during Chandragupta Maurya in 300 BC
  - Fa-Hein: during Chandragupta-2 rule in 405 AD
  - Hieun-Tsang: during Harsha rule in 630 AD
  - I-Tsing: came to visit Nalanda university in 670 AD]

2004:

- Consider the following statements=>
  - The Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hien attended the fourth Great Buddhist Council held by Kanishka [INCORRECT] [Fa-Hein (came in 670 AD): did not attend 4th Buddhist Council held by Kanishka (held in 78 AD)]
  - The Chinese pilgrim Hiuen-Tsang met Harsha and found him to be antagonistic to Buddhism [INCORRECT] [Hiuen-Tsang met Harsha & was influenced by Buddhism]

2013:

- The Chinese traveller Yuan Chwang (Hiuen Tsang) who visited India recorded the general conditions and culture of India at that time. In this context
  - As regards punishment for offences, ordeals by fire, water and poison were the instruments for determining the innocence or guilt of a person.
  - The tradesmen had to pay duties at ferries and barrier stations.
  - The roads and river-routes were completely immune from robbery. [INCORRECT]

2016:

- Who of the following had first deciphered the edicts of Emperor Ashoka=> James Prinsep

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INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION:

2001:

- Which animal was not represented on the seals & terracotta art of the Harappan culture=> Cow
    - Elephant, Rhinoceros, Tiger were represented

2002:

- Ancient site - Archaeological finding=>
    - Lothal : Dockyard
    - Kalibangan : Ploughed field
    - Dholavira : An inscription comprising 10 large sized signs of Harappan script
    - Banawali : Terracotta replica of plough

2011:

- Regarding the Indus Valley Civilization=>
    - It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
    - During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India

2013:

- The characteristics of the people of Indus Civilization=>
    - They worshipped both male and female deities.
    - They possessed great palaces and temples. [INCORRECT] [No temples found]
    - They employed horse-drawn chariots in warfare. [INCORRECT] [No evidence of horse found]

ARYAN & RIG VEDIC AGE:

1995:

- Who was a Brahmavadini who composed some hymns of the Vedas=> Lopamudra

1996:

- The river most mentioned in early Vedic literature is=> Sindhu
    - NOT Saraswati, Ganga, Sutudri

1997:

- The famous dialogue between Nachiketa and Yama is mentioned in the=> Kathopanishad

1999:

- The term ‘Aryan’ denotes=> a speech group

2004:

- Which Vedas contains an account of magical charms and spells=> Atharva
    - Rig veda [collection of hymn]
    - Sama veda [prayers of Rig veda set to tune to recite]

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- Yajur veda [rituals which will accompany hymns]

2011:

- The ‘dharma’ & ‘rita’ depict a central idea of ancient Vedic civilization of India. In this context=>
  - Dharma was a conception of obligations and of the discharge of one’s duties to oneself and to others.
  - Rita was the fundamental moral law governing the functioning of the universe and all it contained.

2012:

- The religion of early Vedic Aryans was primarily of=> Worship of Nature & Yajnas
  - Bhakti, Image worship and Yajnas, Worship of nature and Bhakti [INCORRECT]

2017:

- With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people=>
  - Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.
  - Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal.
  - Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron. [INCORRECT]

PRE-MAURYAN AGE:

1997:

- The following map shows four of the sixteen mahajanapadas that existed in ancient India.
  - 

  - The places marked A, B, C and D respectively are=> A= Matsya; B= Avanti; C= Vatsa; D= Anga

1999:

- Which one of the following was initially the most powerful city state of India in 6th century BC => Kashi

2000:

- Which dynasty was ruling over North India at the time of alexander’s invasion=> Nanda [Alexander who invaded Punjab in 326 AD, did not dare to move east due to Nanda dynasty]
  - Maurya [320 BC - 185 BC]

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- Sunga [185 BC - 73 BC]
- Kanva [73 BC - 28 BC]

2005:

- Contemporaries=> Bimbisara, Gautama Buddha, Prasenjit
  - Milinda [aka Menander-1; a later Indo-Greek king (100 BC)]

MAURYAN AGE:

1995:

- The name by which Ashoka is generally referred to his inscriptions is=> Priyadassi

1997:

- Regarding Ashokan stone pillars=>
  - These are highly polished.
  - These are monolithic.
  - The shaft of pillars is tapering in shape.
  - These are part of architectural structures. [INCORRECT] [were independent pillars]

- Which edict mentions the personal name of Asoka=> Maski
  - [Maski edict is in Karnataka; minor rock edict; on bank of Maski river which is tributary of Tungabhadra; 1st edict discovered with name 'Ashoka']

1998:

- Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
  - Assertion (A): According to Asoka's edicts social harmony among the people was more important than religious devotion.
  - Reason (R): He spread ideas of equity instead of promotion of religion.

- The given map relates to:
  - 

  - => Ashoka towards close to his reign

- Ashokan major rock edicts which tell us about Sangam kingdom include rock edicts=> II and XIII

2000:

- Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
  - Assertion (A): Ashoka annexed Kalinga to the Mauryan Empire.
  - Reason (R): Kalinga controlled land and sea routes to South India.

2003:

- History of India=>
  - The last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha was assassinated by his commander-in-chief, Pushyamitra Sunga.
  - The last Sunga king, Devabhuti was assassinated by his Brahmana minister Vasudeva Kanva who usurped the throne.
  - The last ruler of the Kanva dynasty was deposed by the Andhras. [aka Satvahana dynasty]

CENTRAL ASIAN CONTACTS:

1997:

- "Milindpanho" is in the form of a dialogue between the king Menander and the Buddhist monk=> Nagasena

1998:

- Art=>
  - Assertion (A): the Gandhara School of art bears the mark of Hellenistic influence. [TRUE]
  - Reason (R): Hinayana form was influenced by that art. [FALSE] [Mahayana form was influenced by that art]

- Many of the Greeks, Kushans and Shakas embraced Buddhism rather than Hinduism because=> Buddhism provided easier access to Indian society
  - Buddhism was in the ascendant at that time [INCORRECT]
  - They had renounced the policy of war and violence [INCORRECT]
  - Caste-ridden Hinduism did not attract them [INCORRECT]

1999:

- The Indo-Greek kingdom set up in north Afganistan in the beginning of the second century B.C. was=> Bactria

2000:

- The practice of military governorship was first introduced in India by the=> Greeks

2006:

- With reference to the invaders in ancient India, the correct chronological order is=> Greeks - Sakas - Kushans
  - [Greeks: 200 BC
  - Sakas: 100 BC (initially parallel with Greeks)

- Kushans: 1 AD]

GUPTA PERIOD:

1995:

- In Sanskrit plays written during the Gupta period, women and shudras speak=> Prakrit

1996:

- Who is known for his work on medicine during the Gupta period=> Susrutha
  - Saumilla [Sanskrit writer before Kalidas]
  - Shaunaka [a great Sanskrit grammarian: a teacher of Atharva veda]
  - Shudraka [wrote Mrichchhakatika]

1997:

- The silver coins issued by the Guptas were called=> Rupaka

1999:

- Which port handled the north Indian trade during the Gupta period=> Tamralipti
  - Broach [INCORRECT] [on west coast=> handled trade with West Asia & Mediterranean sea]
  - Kalyan [INCORRECT]
  - Cambay [INCORRECT]

2000:

- Feudal system=>
  - Assertion (A): the origin of feudal system in Ancient India can be traced to Military campaigns. [FALSE]
  - Reason (R): There was considerable expansion of the feudal system during the Gupta period. [TRUE]

2001:

- Correct match=>
  - The Kushans : Gandhara school of art
  - The Mughals : Ajantha painting [INCORRECT]
  - The Marathas : Pahari school of painting [INCORRECT]
  - Harappan civilisation : Painted Grey ware [INCORRECT]

2002:

- The ancient Indian play Mudrarakshasa of Vishakhadutt has its subject on=> The court intrigues at the time of Chandragupta Maurya.

2003:

- ‘Mrichchhakatika’ an ancient Indian book written by Shudraka deals with=> The love affair of a rich merchant with the daughter of a courtesan.

2006:

- The Allahabad Pillar inscription is associated with=> Samudragupta

2010:
- Buddhism started declining in India in the early medieval times because=> Buddha was by that time considered as one of the incarnations of Vishnu & thus became a part of Vaishnavism
  - The invading tribes from Central Asia till the time of last gupta king adopted Hinduism and persecuted Buddhists. [INCORRECT]
  - The Kings of Gupta dynasty were strongly opposed to Buddhism. [INCORRECT]

2016:
- Which book of ancient India has the love story of the son of the founder of the Sunga dynasty=> Malavikagnimitra
  - Swapnavasavadatta [by Bhasa]
  - Meghadoota [by Kalidas]
  - Ratnavali [by Harshavardhan]

SCIENCE & CIVILISATION:
1995:
- Zero was invented by=> an unknown Indian
  - NOT Aryabhatta, Varahamihira, Bhaskara-1

- Who anticipated Newton by declaring that all things gravitate to Earth=> Brahmagupta
  - NOT Aryabhatta, Varhamihira, Buddhagupta

1996:
- Correct match=>
  - Vishakadatta : Drama [author of Mudrarakshasa: narrates the ascent of the king Chandragupta Maurya to power in India]
  - Varahamihira : Astronomy
  - Charaka : Medicine
  - Brahmagupta : Maths

2006:
- Finding/Invention/ Calculation : Ancient Indian Scholar=>
  - Time taken by the earth to orbit the sun : Bhaskaracharya
  - Calculation of the value of Pi : Baudhayana
  - Invention/use of the digit zero : Aryabhatta
  - The game of snakes & ladders : Gyandeva

2012:
- With reference to the scientific progress of ancient India=>
  - Different kinds of specialized surgical instruments were in common use by 1st century AD

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- Concept of sine of an angle was known in 5th century AD
- Concept of cyclic quadrilaterals was known in 7th century AD
- Transplant of internal organs in human body had begun by beginning of 3rd century AD [INCORRECT]

OTHER DYNASTY (HARSHVARDHANA, CHALUKYA, CHANDELA, PALLAVA, CHOLA, IKSHVAKU, PALA):
1997:

- Dynasty : Cities=>
  - Gupta : Deograh (Odisha)
  - Chandella : Khajuraho
  - Chalukya : Badami
  - Pallava : Panamalai

2001:

- Which Chola king conquered Ceylon=> Rajaraja-1

- Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
  - Assertion (A): Harshavardhana convened the Prayag Assembly
  - Reason (R): He wanted to popularize only the Mahayana form of Buddhism

2003:

- Emperor Harsha's southward march was stopped on the Narmada river by=> Pulakesin-2

- Cholas=>
  - The Cholas defeated Pandya and Chera rulers and established their domination over peninsular India in the early medieval times.
  - The Cholas sent an expedition against Sailendra empire of South East Asia and conquered some of the areas.

2006:

- Who laid the foundation of Rashtrakuta empire=> Dantidurga

- The initial design and construction of which massive temple took place during the reign of Suryavarman II=> Angkor Vat

- Consider the following statements=>
  - The Ikshvaku rulers of Southern India were antagonistic towards Buddhism. [INCORRECT] [Hinduism, Jainism as well as Buddhism- all existed]
  - The Pala rulers of Eastern India were patrons of Buddhism

MISCELLANEOUS:
1995:

- Timeline=>

    - Vikram era : 58 BC
    - Saka era : 78 AD
    - Gupta era : 320 AD
    - Kali era : 3100 BC

- The term 'Yavanapriya' mentioned in ancient Sanskrit texts denoted=> Pepper

1996:

- According to ancient Indian cosmogonic ideas the sequential order of the cycle of four aeons (yugas) is=> Krita - Treta - Dvapara - Kali

1997:

- The Badami rock inscription of Pulakesin I is dated in the Saka year 465. If the same were to be dated in Vikrama Samvat, the year would be=> 601 [~550 AD]

- A corporation of merchants in ancient India=> Manigrama

1998:

- Correct match=>
    - Lothal : Ancient dockyard
    - Sarnath : First sermon of Buddha
    - Sarnath : Lion capital of Ashoka
    - Rajgir : capital of Magadha empire
    - Nalanda : Great seat of Buddhist learning

- Correct chronological order=> Urban culture - Iron plough - Punch-marked silver coins - Gold coins
    - urban culture [in Indus Valley Civilisation]
    - iron plough [Mahajanapadas started developing coz of iron discovery]
    - punch-marked silver coin [during Magadha empire]
    - gold coin [1st time by Indo-Greeks]

1999:

- From the 3rd century AD when the Hun invasion ended the roman Empire, the Indian merchants relied more and more on the=> South-East Asian trade

2012:

- With reference to the guilds (Shreni) of ancient India that played a very important role in the country's economy=>
    - Every guild was registered with the central authority of the state and the king was the chief administrative authority on them.
    - The wages, rules of work, standards and prices were fixed by the guild.
    - The guild had judicial power over its own members.

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2016:

- Term : Description=>
  - Eripatti : Land revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank
  - Ghatikas : Colleges generally attached to the temples
  - Taniyurs : Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins [INCORRECT] [Taniyurs refers to a large village which is administered as a single unit]

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