



D. Answer the following questions in 10 -20 words:

Q1. What are the main sources of the study of Vedic age?

Answer: Rigveda is the chief source of information of the early Vedic period. It is one of the four sacred Vedas. It was composed in 1500 BCE. It is the oldest Vedic text.

Q2. How many Vedas are there? Name them.

Answer: There are four types of Vedas – Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda.

Q3. Which type of pottery are associated with the Vedic period?

Answer: **Painted Gray Ware** is considered the characteristic pottery of **Rig Vedic era** (for reference only - while Later Vedic people were acquainted with Painted Gray Ware, Black and Red Ware, Black slipped Ware, Red Ware)

Q4. Name the rivers mentioned in Rig Veda?

Answer: Rig Veda mentions following rivers:

<i>Kubha (Kabul),</i>	<i>Krumu (Kurram),</i>	<i>Gomati (Gumal),</i>	<i>Sindhu (Indus),</i>
<i>Vitase (Jhelum),</i>	<i>Asikni (Chenab),</i>	<i>Parushni (Ravi),</i>	<i>Vipas (Beas),</i>
<i>Sutudri (Sutlej),</i>	<i>Ganga, Yamuna, Sarasvati,</i>		<i>Ghaggar (Drishadvati),</i>
<i>Saryu etc.</i>			



Q5. What are Megaliths?

Answer: A megalith is a large stone which has been used, either alone or together with other stones, to create a structure or statue.

E. Answer the following questions in 50 -80 words:

Q1. How was the Vedic knowledge transmitted? What were the contents of each Veda?

Answer: The **Vedas** are said to have **passed on through verbal transmission** from **one generation to the next**. Therefore, they are also known as **Shruti**. The Vedic literature consists of four Vedas, namely: Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, and Atharva Veda. **The mantra text of each of the Vedas is called Samhita**. **Shruti** is a Sanskrit word that means "**what is said**". **Smriti** is a Sanskrit word that means "**remembered**."



Types of Vedas	
Name of the Veda	Key Features of the Veda
Rig Veda	Collection of prayers offered to Agni, the Fire God and the Indira (warrior God)
Samaveda	Contains the tunes of the prayers of Rig Veda
Yajurveda	Contains mantras recited when performing rituals
Atharvaveda	Contains songs, spells and magical charms to cast away evil spirits

Q2. What do the burials of the Chalcolithic and Megalithic culture tells us?



Answer: ***They buried their dead and encircled their graves with large stones.*** Moreover, they also ***buried*** the articles like ***pottery, weapons*** and implements of the dead along with him. ***Probably, they believed that the dead went to another world and would need their belongings in the next world.*** Social differentiation is highlighted based on things buried with dead.



During the ***Chalcolithic age***, people buried the dead on the floors of their houses. They were buried in the ***north-south direction***. Goods buried with dead ***highlight customs, practices and social setup or social status of people being rich or poor.*** Collective burials indicate ***tragedy or sacrificial ceremony.***

Q3. Mention few distinguishing features of Chalcolithic culture.

Answer: Chalcolithic (Chalco = Copper and Lithic = Stone) period, both metal and stone were utilised for the manufacture of the equipment in day-to-day life.

The first metal age of India is called Chalcolithic Age which saw the use of copper along with stone. It was also called ***Stone-Copper Age***. Along with the ***use of copper and stone*** these ***people*** also ***used low grade bronze to make tools and weapons.***



- Chalcolithic people built **rectangular and circular houses of mud** mostly in clusters.
- Chalcolithic people **used to worship fire**. Fire altars were found at Chalcolithic sites.
- **Goods buried with dead** signifies **customs, practices and social setup or social status of people being rich or poor**. Collective burials indicate tragedy or sacrificial ceremony.
- The people were mostly rural and **lived near hills and rivers**.
- **Chalcolithic people** were **experienced** in **domestication of animals, agriculture, making tools and weapons using copper and its alloys, and making art and crafts**.

Q4. Write short notes on:

Answer:

(a) Vedic Age:

- The **Vedic Age** was between **1500 BC and 600 BC**.
- This is the next major civilization that occurred in **ancient India** after the **decline of the Indus Valley Civilization by 1400 BC**.
- During the **entry of Aryans in the Vedic age**, the **religious customs and beliefs mentioned in Vedas were influenced by Indo-European culture**, which also comprises a distant relation with Greek and German culture.
- **Rigveda** is considered **the oldest and most important** part of the **Vedic age**. Rigveda mentions also keep a **powerful impact on the political culture of India with certain social divisions and societal regulations**
- The **four major Vedas** were created in the Vedic age, referred to as **Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda, Atharvaveda**.

(b) Chalcolithic Culture: The earliest civilizations were the Chalcolithic cultures. These people were the **first to use copper and bronze tools and weapons**. They also created some of the **world's first artworks, including statues, jewellery, and pottery**. The Chalcolithic cultures are **best known for their metalworking skills**.

(c) Inamgaon:

- Inamgaon is a post-Harappan agrarian village and archaeological site located in Maharashtra, western India.
- This **city existed around 3,600 and 2,700 years back**. The occupation of the people of Inamgaon was: Cattle herding and Agriculture.
- The people at Inamgaon had a **diverse diet** that **included plant-based food** such as grains, legumes, fruits, and vegetables, as well as **animal-based food** from domesticated animals and wild game

(d) Rigveda:

- It is the oldest veda.
- It was composed 3500 years ago.



- It is divided into 10 mandals and contains 1028 hymns.
- These hymns are in praise of Gods and Goddesses, like Indra, Varun, Agni, Abha, etc.
- These hymns are composed in Vedic Sanskrit.

F. Answer the following questions in 80 -100 words.

Q1. What changes took place in the economic life of people in Early Vedic Period and the Later Vedic Period.

Answer:

Early Vedic Period or Rig Vedic Period (1500 BC – 1000 BC)	Later Vedic Period or Painted Grey Ware Phase (1000 BC – 600 BC)
People in Early Vedic Period practiced agriculture with cattle-rearing.	In the Later Vedic Period, agriculture seems to have become the main source of livelihood
Rigveda suggest that cattle formed the most important form of wealth for the people.	Agriculture was the prominent in this period. Agriculture was advanced with use of Iron tools for clearing forest and ploughing.
Early Vedic Period was Pastoral Economies i.e. they used to trade animals products in exchange of cereals, weapons and clothing. In the Early Vedic Period, the barter system was more prevalent with little to no monetary value transaction being part of the exchange.	Shift from Pastoral economy to agricultural economy. In the Later Vedic Period, trade and commerce expanded, and urban centres became hubs of economic activities. The use of Gold and Silver coins as a medium of exchange became common.
Cotton and woollen fabrics were spun and used.	Agricultural economy led to rise other art and craft such as carpentry, weaving, jewellery-making, dyeing and pottery-making.
During the Early Vedic Period, trade and commerce were limited , and a barter system was commonly used for exchange.	There was foreign trade with far off regions like Babylon and Sumeria led to growth of trade networks and commercial activities

Q2. Discuss the social divisions of Vedic society?

Answer:

Early Vedic Period or Rig Vedic Period (1500 BC – 1000 BC)	Later Vedic Period or Painted Grey Ware Phase (1000 BC – 600 BC)
The caste system was flexible and based on profession rather than birth	The caste system became more rigid in this period with birth being the main criteria



People from same family can take up different occupations	All the members of the family must take same occupation based on their caste.
There was no concept of Shudra or untouchables	Shudras became a mainstay in the Later Vedic period. Their sole function was to serve those of the upper-castes
kings were elected for a fixed period by the local assembly known as Samiti	The absolute rule of the Kings became more and more prominent. (hereditary)
Social distinctions existed but were not rigid and hereditary .	The four divisions of society in decreasing social ranking were: Brahmanas (priests), Kshatriyas (rulers), Vaishyas (agriculturists, traders and artisans), and Shudras (servers of the upper three classes).
Women were allowed a greater degree of freedom in this period.	Women were restricted from their participation in society

G. Think and Answer:

Q1. What role do you think iron play in the emergence of agrarian economy?

Answer: *Iron tools help in agriculture growth by clearing large areas of land for cultivation. The enhanced use of iron in the field of agriculture increased the agricultural production. Iron axes were used to clear the forests. This enabled the expansion of the area under agriculture. Iron ploughshare was used to churn the fertile soil, hence increasing the productivity of the soil. Agriculture expansion had led to economic growth.*

Q2. What differences do you find in the sources used for the history of the Vedic period and that of the Indus Valley Civilization? (Prefer answer marked bold)

Answer:

- 1) In the Indus civilization trade, internal and external, crafts as well as industries were the main sources of economy, Vedic Economy was initially pastoral and later became based upon agriculture and cattle rearing.**
- 2) In terms of economic status, the economic life of the people of the Harappa Civilization was prosperous and advanced as well as based on industrial specialization and localization. While the economic life of the people of Aryan culture was rural.**
- 3) The people of the Harappa Civilization used 'weights' for weighing in trade. Many weights (baats) have become available from there. Aryans lived in villages. At that time, the medium of trade was exchange (barter system). Cow was used as unit of value.**
- 4) Indus people did not know the use of iron. It was purely a copper-bronze culture, while the Vedic culture in its later phase is replete with references to iron.**



- 5) The horse, which played a decisive role in the Aryan Vedic age system of warfare, was not known to the Indus people.
- 6) ***Indus people were basically peace loving. Their arms (swords, daggers, arrow-heads, spears) were primitive in nature. Aryans were warlike people and were conversant with all kinds of traditional arms and armour and had devised a full-fledged science of war. Indus people were peace loving.***
- 7) Harappan pottery called black or red pottery was wheel made and very distinctive in nature. The distinctive Aryan pottery is known as PGW (painted grey ware).
- 8) **Cotton was the basic fabric of the Harappans while the Aryans put on woollen garments as well as leather garments.**