

UNIT - 3

HISTORY OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

I. ANSWER IN ONE WORD OR SENTENCE EACH.

1. On which river bank did the Egyptian civilization develop?
A: Nile river.

2. What is the Egyptian writing called as?
A: Hieroglyphics.

3. Who is the first woman empress of the world?
A: Empress Hatshepsut.

4. Why did the Egyptian's preserve the dead bodies of their kings?
A: They preserved the dead bodies of their kings because they believed in the transmigration of souls and in life after death.

5. Which is the biggest pyramid in the world?
A: Pyramid of Giza.

6. What is the meaning of Mesopotamia?
A: "The Land between two rivers"

7. Who built the hanging garden?
A: Nebuchadnezzar.

8. What is a Ziggurat?
A: Mesopotamian temples with tall towers are called Ziggurat.

9. Who was the greatest ruler of China?
A: Shi-Hu Wang-Ti.

10. Who was the proponent of Taoism?

A: Lao Tse.

11. Who popularized Buddhism in China?

A: The Buddhist monks and the traders of India popularized Buddhism in India.

II. ANSWER IN TWO WORDS OR SENTENCES EACH.

1. Mention any two inventions that helped the growth of civilizations.

A: 1) the invention of moving wheels.

2) use of fire.

2. Define civilization.

A: The word Civilization is derived the Latin word 'civilis' meaning city or city-states. It stands for more matured or refined way of life.

3. Name any two ancient civilizations.

A: 1) Egyptian Civilization

2) Chinese Civilization.

4. Why are river valleys called cradles of Civilization?

A: The river valleys provide man with abundance of fertile soil and also plenty of water for drinking and irrigation. They also have suitable climate for cultivation of crops.

5. Why is Egypt called "the Gift of Nile"?

A: The Nile river flows throughout the year and the most fertile plains and uninterrupted supply of water. Without the Nile river, the Egyptian civilization wouldn't have developed.

6. Name any two Gods and Goddesses of Egypt.

A: a) Ra- Sun God

b) Osiris- the God of the dead or underworld.

7. Why is Mesopotamia called as 'the cradle and the grave' of Civilization?
A: On the river plains of Mesopotamia, many Civilizations have developed and vanished. Hence it is called 'the cradle and the grave' of Civilizations.
8. Write any two causes responsible for the decline of the Mesopotamian Civilization?
A: 1) Invasion by Persians.
2) Weak and Inefficient rulers lost control of administration and led to anarchy.
9. Name the river valley on which the Chinese Civilization flourished.
A:a) Hwang –Ho
b) Yangtse
10. Who built the Great Wall of China? Why?
A: Shih Hu Wang Ti started the construction of Great Wall of China. To protect China from the attack of the Huns, Mongols etc.
11. Mention any two important scientific inventions of the Chinese.
A: a) Silk
b) Tea.
12. Name any two philosophers of ancient China.
A: a) Lao-Tse
b) Confucious.

III. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN 15 TO 20 SENTENCES.

1. Define Civilization. Distinguish between Civilization and Culture.
A: The word Civilization is derived the Latin word 'civilis' meaning city or city-states. It stands for more matured or refined way of life.

The differences between Civilization and Culture are:

CULTURE	CIVILIZATION
1) Most of it is internal	1) It is external
2) Includes art, literature, religion, Philosophy, food and dress, thoughts And beliefs, customs and traditions.	2) Includes towns, cities, villages, buildings, bridges, transport, technology etc.
3) It has no standards of measurement.	3) It has standards of measurement.

4) It is the way we believe, think and act.	4) It is the material attainments, gains and facilities used to make the life more comfortable.
5) It cannot be said to be always advancing	5) It is always advancing.
6) Culture comes earlier	6) Civilization grows later.
7) There can be a culture without civilization.	7) There cannot be civilization without culture.

2. Discuss the factors that helped the growth of civilizations.

A: a) Deposition of fertile alluvial soil caused by the river floods.

b) Continuous and un-interrupted supply of water for irrigation and domestic purposes.

c) Favorable climate found on river valleys.

d) Plenty of food, fruits and vegetables for men and fodder for animals.

c) River valleys helped fishing

d) They helped the growth of trade and communication by providing means of transport.

Above factors reduced the burden of man in wandering for food and risk of life and provided him with adequate time and necessities to develop civilizations.

3. Explain the political conditions of Egyptian civilization.

A: The Egyptian kings were called Pharoas. They were considered as representatives of God and thus enjoyed unlimited power. They had control over the state and religion About 30 dynasties ruled Egypt for about 3000 years. A strong central government with monarchy, a well controlled administration and strict laws were the basic features of Egyptian politics.

The rule of dynasties can be divided into three parts:

- THE PERIOD OF THE OLD KINGDOM:

- This is also known as the 'period of pyramids'. The Pharoas of this period were very strong and had council of elders to advice him. He appointed a Vizir as the prime minister, who headed the administration, justice and treasury. There were central officers who maintained records and local officers who collected taxes and looked after law and order.

- THE PERIOD OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM:

- It is also known as the period of the Feudal Lords. During this period, the Lords became more powerful than the Pharoas and led to internal wars and anarchy.

- THE PERIOD OF NEW KINGDOM:
 - During this period the kings raised a powerful army and built a strong empire. Hatshepsut , the first woman empress in the world belongs to this period.

4. Write a short note on learning and literature of Egyptian Civilization.

A: Egyptians developed pictographic writing. Egyptian writing is called Hieroglyphics. It contains hundreds of signs. Papyrus was used for writing. 'The Book of Dead' , 'Coffin Text' etc. are the important books discovered. They had fair knowledge of medicine, geometry, calendars, astronomy and mathematics. The scholars mostly belonged to the priestly class. They could measure the areas of triangles, rectangles, squares, circles and hexagons, and knew about addition, subtraction and division and were the first to develop the fraction system. All this can be clearly seen in the huge pyramids they built.

Their calendar was based on sun and was known as the solar calendar. It had 365 days with 12 months in a year, 30 days in a month. They had three seasons in a year based on the rising and receding of the river Nile. They invented the shadow clock. The temples were centers of education and the priests educated them. Higher education was given by officials. The education was controlled by the state.

5. Write a note on the Art and Architecture of Egyptians.

A: Egyptians were great builders. They built temples for their Gods and Pyramids to bury their kings. The walls of these were carved with beautiful sculptures, and paintings. They used sandstones, limestones, granite and wood to carve the statues. Their creations have survived the blows of nature telling us about their skilled workmanship and technical knowledge. There are more than 90 pyramids which are almost 4000 years old.

The Sphinx- has the head of a man and the body of a lion, was created by the emperor Khafre. The pyramid of Giza is the biggest pyramid and is one of the wonders of the ancient world. It is the tomb of king Khufu.

6. Write a short note on Code of Hammurabi.

A: Hammurabi was a Babylonian king from the Mesopotamian Civilization and is remembered for his 'code of law' which is known as Code of Hammurabi. He collected all existing laws, classified them, improved them, added new ones, and codified them into one body of laws. The code included 282 laws. The laws were relating to all aspects of life such as- personal, property, trade and business, accidents, labor, marriage, divorce, slaves, rights of men and women etc. It is engraved on the black stone and is the oldest written code of law. The code is a mixture of enlightened laws and barbarous punishments. It is based on the principle of 'Tit for Tat' or 'an eye for an eye'. Only the state had power to give justice. It aimed at deterring the people from committing crimes and providing equality. Women were given the right to own property and inherit ancestral property. There was no distinction between the rich and poor. The business

documents were witnesses by somebody. If a doctor failed in the duty, he had to pay compensation to the patients.

7. Write about the socio-economic conditions of Mesopotamia.

A: Social condition:

The Mesopotamian society was divided into four groups:

- 1) The royals
- 2) The priests
- 3) Rich landlords and merchants
- 4) Slaves.

Priests and scribes held high posts in the administration. They enjoyed high status. Nobles enjoyed powers by heredity. They had great power in administration and army. The farmers, artists, craftsmen, shopkeepers, merchants formed third strata followed by slaves at the lowest level. Women enjoyed considerable freedom with right to property.

Economic condition:

Agriculture was the main occupation followed by cattle rearing and dairy farming. They developed artificial irrigation from rivers by digging canals. They also built dykes, embankments, storage basins to use water throughout the year. Shadoof was developed by them. They cultivated wheat, barley, fruits, dates and exported the same. In the beginning they used the barter system and later used metal coins. Weaving, dyeing, wood work, pottery, brick making, jewellery, mining were important crafts. They exported woolen clothes and fiber clothes, hides etc. and imported various metals. They had trade relations with India and Egypt.

8. Write a note on Confucius and his philosophy.

A: Confucius was the greatest of the Chinese philosophers. He lost his father at age of 3 years and faced a lot of difficulties. He learned archery and music. He married at the age of nineteen and gave up family life at the age of 23 years. He worked as a language teacher, editor, judge, and minister. His philosophy is known as Confucianism. He taught loyalty towards family, worship of ancestors, respect to elders and unity among the people of China.

His sayings:

- What do you not like when done to yourself, do not do to others. This is the golden rule of Confucius.
- Character is the foundation of society.
- Wisdom begins at home.
- The great man acts before he speaks and speaks according to his actions.
- Excessive taxation and barbaric punishments should be abolished.
- Unemployed should be provided jobs.
- The government must protect the orphans, the aged, the widows, the diseased and the disabled.

9. Write a note on Art and Architecture of China.

A: Art:

Paintings:

The Chinese had developed wonderful paintings. They painted on silk cloth, tomb walls, pots and papers. They believed that tomb paintings were means to protect the dead and help their souls to go to heaven.

Sculpture:

Chinese developed the art of casting bronze statues of animals and monsters. Lot of sculptures related to Buddhism can also be found. The terracotta army is a very famous creation of the Chinese. It consists of life sized images of more than 8000 warriors and horses.

Architecture:

Chinese were massive builders. The Great Wall of China built for protecting the country from the attack of Huns, Mongols and other invasions, is one of the wonders of the ancient world. It is 2380 km long.

They also built great palaces but none of them survived as they were built in mud and wood. They built Buddhist temples called Pagodas. Important among them are the 'Goose Pagoda', 'Flask Pagoda. The temple of sleeping Buddha is also noteworthy.

10. Write a note on writing and literature of China.

A: Chinese had developed the art of writing during the Shang period. Chinese script was standardized during the Chin rulers. They have no alphabets and parts of speech. It consists of more than 40,000 characters. Their writing started as pictograph. Their writing played an important role in their cultural unification. It influenced Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese scripts. It is written from top to bottom.

The invention of paper, silk and ink for writing helped growth of writing and literature. The practice of writing history was also popular in China. The Chinese literature consist of prose, poetry, philosophy and history. 'Tao-Li-Po' and Tu-Fu were the great poets. The Imperial Library of the Han dynasty thousands of volumes of classics, philosophy, mathematics, medicine etc. Chinese had developed Geography, Geometry, Arithmetic, Calenders, Astronomy and predicted eclipses.

IV. ANSWER IN 30 TO 40 SENTENCES .

1. Describe the contributions of Egyptian Civilization.

A: The Egyptian civilization is believed to be the first civilization to have developed in the world, on the banks of river Nile.

Social condition:

There were three classes in the Egyptian society :

a) The Upper class that consisted of the royal family, priests, nobles and the military officers.

- b) The middle class included physicians, scribes, craftsmen, merchants and farmers.
- c) The lower class or the slaves

The status of the Egyptian women were exceptionally high. The first empress of the world, Hatehepsut, belongs here. Women had equal share in the ancestral property. Such high status was not enjoyed by women of any other civilizations.

Economic condition:

The economy was agrarian in nature. The Nile river blessed the land with plenty of water and fertile soil. They grew crops like wheat, barley, cotton etc. canals and shadoofs were used for irrigation. The enlarged the hoe and foxed it to the yoke of the oxen. This transformed 'the Hoe culture into Plough culture'.

Crafts and Manufacturers:

Egyptians developed a variety of crafts and manufacturing. Stone cutters, masons, carpenters, jewelers etc. added to the luxuries of life. The metals used were copper , brass, bronze, gold and iron.

Trade and commerce:

The Egyptians developed both internal and external trade. They traded with the Mesopotamian and Asian countries. Barter system prevailed. A variety of taxes were levied on agriculturalists, traders and craftsmen.

Religion:

Religion played an important part of the Egyptian people. They believed in the transmigration of souls and life after death and hence preserved the dead bodies in the form of mummies.

Add points from IIIrd SECTION – QUESTIONS NUMBER- 3,4,5.

2. Describe the contributions of Mesopotamian Civilization.

A: The Mesopotamian civilization developed in the plains of two rivers, Tigris and Euphrates.

Political condition:

The Mesopotamians established the city states first, which developed into kingdoms and later into empires. King was regarded as the representative of God and was the head of administration and religion. Governors were appointed to look after provincial administration.

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at deterring the people from committing crimes and providing equality. Women were given the right to own property and inherit ancestral property. There was no distinction between the rich and poor. The business documents were witnesses by somebody. If a doctor failed in the duty, he had to pay compensation to the patients.

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Religious condition:

Mesopotamians worshipped nature and many number of Gods and Goddesses. They built Ziggurats which are temples with tall towers. The temples were centers of education. Marduk was the supreme God.

Art and Architecture:

As Mesopotamian building were constructed with mud and brick, hardly any have survived.

The Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar constructed a palace known as the 'Hanging Garden' and was one of the wonders of the ancient world. They also carved beautiful pictures of animals and birds. They used flat bricks for writing which is known as 'Cuneiform' writing.

Science and Mathematics:

They knew about planets like Mercury, Jupiter etc. they had faith in Astrology. They divided the year into 12 months with 354 days and followed lunar calendar. They knew that the circle had 360 degrees. They made considerable progress in the field of medicine. Their book 'Materia medica' is very famous and useful. This book tells about 550 medicines and also about various diseases and their symptoms.

3. Describe the contribution of Chinese Civilizations.

A: The Chinese civilization developed in the river plains of Hwang-Ho, Yangtse and Sikiyang. It is the oldest civilization which survives till today.

Important inventions of the Chinese are:

Silk

Paper

Ink

Brush of painting and writing

Abacus

Acupuncture

Rudder'gun powder

Glass

Pottery

Porcelain

Rockets

Spoon

Fork

Umbrella

Seismograph

Mariner's compass

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Philosophy And Religion:

The three philosophers of China , namely :

Lao Tse

Confucius

Mencius , have contributed greatly towards philosophy and religion.

Lao Tse was a great philosopher and wrote the book called TAO te Ching(the way of life), preached non violence. His philosophy is known as Taoism.

Confucius was the greatest among all the three. His philosophy is known Confucianism. He taught loyalty towards family, worship of ancestors, respect to elders and unity among the people of China.

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- Character is the foundation of society.
- Wisdom begins at home.
- The great man acts before he speaks and speaks according to his actions.
- Excessive taxation and barbaric punishments should be abolished.
- Unemployed should be provided jobs.
- The government must protect the orphans, the aged, the widows, the diseased and the disabled.

Mencius preached that all individuals are good and that social evils come due to illiteracy, ignorance and poverty.

Industry and crafts:

Silk was important trade item of export from China. Silk route that connected the east to the west was of great importance. Items like iron, tea, salt, opium and cotton products were also main items of export. Money lending and banking was practiced in China from 5th century BCE.

