

UPSC PRELIMS

Ancient History

Sample topic · The Vedic Age

Vedic Age

Rivers

- Indus : Sindhu
- Ghaggar : Drishadvati
- Sutlej : Shutudri
- Beas : Vipas
- Ravi : Parushni
- Chenab : Asikni
- Jhelum : Vitasa
- Ghaggar : Saraswati

Vedas

- 4 Vedas
 - i. Rigveda: Collection of 1028 hymns
 - ii. Samveda: Verses of Rigveda arranged in poetic form to facilitate singing
 - iii. Yajurveda: Hymns as well as rituals
 - iv. Atharveda: Magic Spells and Charms
- Each Veda is subdivided into 4 major sub texts:
 - i. Samhitas (Collection of Hymns or Mantras)
 - ii. Brahmanas (Rituals)
 - iii. Aranyakas (Rituals, Ceremonies, Sacrifices)
 - iv. Upanishads or Vedanta (Last part of Veda)

Vedic Age

Vedangas

- Shiksha: Phonetic Education
- Kalpa: Rituals
- Vyakrana: Grammar
- Nirukt: Etymology
- Chhanda: Metrics
- Jyotish: Astrology

Upaveda

- Ayurveda
- Dhanurveda
- Gandharvaveda
- Shilpveda

Rig Vedic Age (1500 to 1000 BCE)

Economy

- Most of Early Vedic Age people were pastoralists. Cattle Rearing was their main occupation.
- Gomat: Wealthy Person
- Duhitri: Daughter of Gomat
- Gaveshna: Battle for cows
- Gopati: Raja or Chief who protects the cows
- Godhuli: Term for a measure of time
- Gavyuti: Distance
- Gotra: Kinship Units

Society

- Leader of Grama: Gramini
- Group of Villages: Vis or Clan
- Group of vis or clan: Jana or Tribe

Polity

- Rajan: Chief of the unit
- Sabha: Meeting of Great men
- Samiti: Meeting of all free tribesmen
- Vidhata: Assembly
- Parishad: Sovereign General Assembly

Later Vedic Age (1000 to 600 BCE)

Economy

- Agriculture was widely practiced

Society

- General Decline in Status of women.
- Restrictions were placed on women.
- Varna System appeared

Some Important Terms

- Ayas: Bronze
- Yava: Barley
- Takshak: Carpenter
- Dhumvakrit: Maker of Bows
- Vrihi: Rice
- Hiranyakata: Goldsmith
- Bheesaj or Mishak: Doctor or Vaidya
- Pani: Traders

Vedic Age

PYQ Prelims Exam:

With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (1) 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.
- (2) Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.
- (3) Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: Option C