

UNIQUE STUDY POINT

AMITESH NAGAR, INDORE

PRACTICE PAPER 01 (2026-27)

CHAPTER : STATE AND SOCIETY UP TO 1000 CE

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Class : IX

Subject : Social Science

General Instructions :

- This question paper contains 75 questions divided into five sections A, B, C, D and E.
- Section A has 35 objective type questions (MCQ, Match the following, Statement-based, Assertion-Reason) of 1 mark each.
- Section B has 15 short answer questions of 2 marks each.
- Section C has 15 short answer questions of 3 marks each.
- Section D has 5 case based questions of 4 marks each.
- Section E has 5 long answer questions of 5 marks each.
- All questions are compulsory. Use of a calculator is not permitted.

SECTION - A

This section consists of 35 objective type questions of 1 mark each.

1. Which empire is known for its architectural simplicity, elegance, and use of durable materials like stone? **1**
(A) Mauryan Empire (B) Pallava Dynasty (C) Kushana Empire (D) Gupta Empire
2. What was the primary occupation of the Aryans in the beginning of the Vedic period? **1**
(A) Chariot making (B) Pottery making (C) Agriculture (D) Pastoralism
3. Which time period is primarily associated with the flourishing of the Vedic Civilization in India? **1**
(A) 2500 BCE - 1500 BCE (B) 600 BCE - 300 CE (C) 1000 BCE - 100 CE (D) 1500 BCE - 600 BCE
4. Who was the author of Arthashastra, a book that provides detailed information about Mauryan administration? **1**
(A) Chandragupta Maurya (B) Kautilya (Chanakya) (C) Bimbisara (D) Ashoka
5. Which language was primarily used for Ashokan Edicts to communicate moral messages and ethical guidelines? **1**
(A) Tamil (B) Prakrit (C) Sanskrit (D) Greek

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6. Which material was primarily used for the Ashokan pillars, known for their precise craftsmanship and smooth polish? **1**
(A) Red sandstone (B) Polished sandstone (C) Marble (D) Granite
7. Which Mauryan emperor extended the empire to almost the entire Indian subcontinent? **1**
(A) Bindusara (B) Samudragupta (C) Ashoka (D) Chandragupta Maurya
8. Which caves, carved out of granite and polished to a mirror-like finish, represent a significant aspect of Mauryan rockcut architecture? **1**
(A) Karla Caves (B) Barabar Caves in Bihar (C) Ajanta Caves (D) Ellora Caves
9. Which of the following officials administered a Vishaya (district) in the Gupta Empire? **1**
(A) Vishayapati (B) Uparika (C) Kumaramatyā (D) Mahadandanayaka
10. Which of the following was a key feature of the Gupta administration, distinguishing it from the Mauryan system? **1**
(A) More decentralized system with local self-government
(B) Highly centralized governance
(C) Emphasis on severe punishments and strict spy systems
(D) Abolition of land revenue as a primary income source
11. In the Post-Gupta period, especially in South India, what were the names of influential merchant guilds? **1**
(A) Ayyavole and Manigramam
(B) Uttarapatha and Dakshinapatha
(C) Vaishyas and Kshatriyas
(D) Setthis and Shrenis
12. What was the name given to the region around the seven rivers (Indus and its tributaries) where the Indo-Aryans first settled? **1**
(A) Magadha (B) Brahmavarta (C) Kosala (D) Aryavarta

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13. What was the capital of early Magadha before it was shifted to Pataliputra? **1**
(A) Taxila (B) Suvarnagiri (C) Ujjain (D) Rajgir
14. What was the primary source of income for the state in Magadha? **1**
(A) Land revenue
(B) Iron mine revenues
(C) Forest products
(D) Taxes from trade and crafts
15. Which of the following land routes was important for trade in ancient and early medieval India, connecting different regions? **1**
(A) Uttarapatha and (B) Spice Route (C) Grand Trunk (D) Silk Road
Dakshinapatha Road
16. Which text from the Mauryan period is a detailed treatise on statecraft, administration, and diplomacy? **1**
(A) Tripitaka (B) Arthashastra (C) Jataka tales (D)
by Kautilya Harshacharita
17. The Barabar Caves, carved out of granite with a mirror-like polish, are examples of which type of architecture during the Mauryan period? **1**
(A) Pillar architecture
(B) Temple architecture
(C) Rockcut architecture
(D) Stupa architecture
18. Who founded the Mauryan Empire in 321 BCE? **1**
(A) Kautilya (B) Chandragupta Maurya (C) Ashoka (D) Bindusara
19. Which of the following gods was worshipped as the god of water and upholder of natural order during the Vedic period? **1**
(A) Surya (B) Indra (C) Agni (D) Varuna

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20. The Lion Capital of Sarnath, later adopted as the National Emblem of India, is an example of art from which period? **1**

(A) Kushana Period (B) Gupta Period (C) Mauryan Period (D) Post-Gupta Period

21. Match the items in List I with those List II. **1**

List I	List II
(A) Setthis	(I) Post-Gupta merchant guild
(B) Shrenis	(II) Wealthy Mauryan bankers and traders
(C) Ayyavole	(III) Mauryan associations regulating trade
(D) Kanishka	(IV) Kushana dynasty ruler

(A) A-IV, B-II, C-III, D-I

(B) A-III, B-I, C-IV, D-II

(C) A-II, B-III, C-I, D-IV

(D) A-I, B-IV, C-II, D-III

22. Match the items in List I with those in List II. **1**

List I	List II
(A) Mauryan Capital Expansion	(I) Allahabad pillar inscription
(B) Gupta Period Reference	(II) Chandragupta Maurya
(C) Mauryan Empire Founder	(III) Pataliputra
(D) Magadhan Original Capital	(IV) Rajgir

(A) A-IV, B-II, C-I, D-III

(B) A-III, B-I, C-II, D-IV

(C) A-I, B-III, C-IV, D-II

(D) A-II, B-I, C-III, D-IV

23. Match the items in List I with those in List II. **1**

List I	List II
(A) Lion Capital of Sarnath	(I) Kushan architecture
(B) Devni-Mori stupa	(II) Mauryan sculpture
(C) Deogarh temple	(III) Post-Gupta architecture
(D) Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram	(IV) Gupta architecture

(A) A-IV, B-III, C-II, D-I

(B) A-II, B-I, C-IV, D-III

(C) A-I, B-II, C-III, D-IV

(D) A-III, B-IV, C-I, D-II

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24. Match the items in List I with those in List II.

1

List I	List II
(A) Mauryan Culture	(I) Growth of temple worship and Puranas
(B) Kushana Culture	(II) Dhamma and non-violence
(C) Gupta Culture	(III) Blend of Indian, Persian, and Greek influences
(D) Post-Gupta Culture	(IV) Prominence of Hinduism and centers like Nalanda

(A) A-II, B-III, C-I, D-IV

(B) A-III, B-II, C-IV, D-I

(C) A-II, B-III, C-IV, D-I

(D) A-I, B-IV, C-II, D-III

25. Match the items in List I with those in List II.

1

List I	List II
(A) Sabha	(I) Assembly of all people
(B) Samiti	(II) President of Sabha
(C) Sabhasads	(III) Senior citizens' body
(D) Sabhapati	(IV) Members of Sabha

(A) A-III, B-I, C-IV, D-II

(B) A-IV, B-II, C-I, D-III

(C) A-I, B-III, C-II, D-IV

(D) A-II, B-IV, C-III, D-I

26. Statement I : The 'Vidatha' was a minor Vedic institution mentioned infrequently in the texts.

1

Statement II : The 'Vidatha' was an important Vedic institution, notably mentioned the most number of times among Vedic institutions, indicating its significant role.

(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are true

(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are false

(C) Statement I is false but Statement II is true

(D) Statement I is true but Statement II is false

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27. Statement I : The Mauryan administration was less centralized than the Gupta administration. **1**
Statement II : The Gupta period is often referred to as the 'Golden Age of India' due to significant advancements in various fields.
(A) Statement I is false but Statement II is true
(B) Statement I is true but Statement II is false
(C) Both Statement I and Statement II are true
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are false
28. Statement I : The Mauryan central government maintained detailed records of income and expenditure. **1**
Statement II : The Gupta administration's judicial system was characterized by particularly severe punishments to maintain order.
(A) Statement I is false but Statement II is true
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are true
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false
(D) Both Statement I and Statement II are false
29. Statement I : The Aryans, during the Early Vedic Period, had a purely democratic administrative system with no monarchical elements. **1**
Statement II : The Sabha and Samiti were institutions that exercised control over the king, suggesting a check on his power.
(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are false
(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are true
(C) Statement I is true but Statement II is false
(D) Statement I is false but Statement II is true

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30. Statement I : The control of trade routes, such as the Silk Road, was a significant factor in the economic prosperity of empires during ancient India. **1**

Statement II : The Kushana Empire's strategic location and control over a large portion of the Silk Road contributed to its flourishing long-distance trade.

- (A) Both Statement I and Statement II are false
- (B) Statement I is false but Statement II is true
- (C) Both Statement I and Statement II are true
- (D) Statement I is true but Statement II is false

Directions (Q. 31 to Q. 35) : In each of the following questions, a statement of Assertion (A) is followed by a statement of Reason (R). Choose the correct option :

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (C) A is true but R is false. (D) A is false but R is true.

31. Assertion (A) : The Vedic Age saw significant evolution in social structures. **1**

Reason (R) : The Varna system transformed from flexible to rigid over time.

32. Assertion (A) : Economic life in the Vedic period transitioned from pastoral to agricultural focus. **1**

Reason (R) : The Rig Veda often mentions ploughs and important seasons for farming.

33. Assertion (A) : Religious practices in the Later Vedic Period became more ritualistic and complex. **1**

Reason (R) : Early Vedic gods were replaced by new deities, and elaborate yajnas gained prominence.

34. Assertion (A) : The capital of Magadha was shifted to Pataliputra. **1**

Reason (R) : Pataliputra had a strategic location near rivers and trade routes.

35. Assertion (A) : The Gupta administration was less centralized than the Mauryan administration. **1**

Reason (R) : Gupta kings followed a more decentralized system, relying on local self-government.

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SECTION - B

This section consists of 15 questions of 2 marks each.

36. Explain how geographical factors influenced the development of trade routes and merchant activities during the Kushana period, contrasting with the earlier Mauryan period. **2**
37. Explain the primary reasons for Magadha's emergence as a dominant kingdom in ancient India, focusing on its geographical and resource advantages. **2**
38. Explain how Ashoka's administrative reforms after the Kalinga War reflected a shift in the empire's governance philosophy. **2**
39. Explain the significance of the Gandhara and Mathura schools of art during the Kushana period in depicting religious figures. **2**
40. Explain the dual function of guilds (shrenis) in ancient India, encompassing both economic regulation and social welfare for their members. **2**
41. Explain the role and significance of Dhamma mahamatras introduced by Ashoka in Mauryan administration. **2**
42. Describe the significant progress in metallurgy during the Post-Gupta period, referencing key examples. **2**
43. Explain the distinguishing characteristics of the Varna system during the early and later Vedic periods, highlighting the changes and how these affected societal structure. **2**
44. Discuss the primary economic activities and the notable technological advancement that influenced the economy during the later Vedic period. **2**
45. How did the role of guilds evolve from the Mauryan period through the Post-Gupta period, considering their organizational structure and influence? **2**
46. Discuss the impact of economic prosperity on social and religious institutions during the Kushana and Post-Gupta periods. **2**

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- | | |
|---|----------|
| 47. Explain the distinguishing architectural characteristics of the Nagara and Dravida styles of temple construction prevalent in post-Gupta India. | 2 |
| 48. How did the judicial system function in the Gupta Empire, and what distinguished its approach to punishment? | 2 |
| 49. Explain how the Mauryan administrative structure contributed to effective governance across a vast empire. | 2 |
| 50. Describe the key advancements in mathematics and metallurgy during the Gupta period and their lasting impact. | 2 |

SECTION - C

This section consists of 15 questions of 3 marks each.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 51. Explain the significance of literary sources, particularly the Vedas, in reconstructing the history of the Vedic period. How did additional literary works contribute to understanding subsequent developments? | 3 |
| 52. How did the political structure during the Early Vedic Period differ from that of the Later Vedic Period, particularly concerning the king's authority and the role of assemblies? | 3 |
| 53. Explain how the architectural developments during the Mauryan period, such as Ashokan pillars and stupas, demonstrate a blend of artistic skill and the promotion of ethical governance. | 3 |
| 54. What measures did ancient governments implement to ensure fairness and prevent exploitation in their respective marketplaces? | 3 |
| 55. Describe the main sources of revenue for the state during the Mauryan period and how these resources were managed. | 3 |
| 56. Discuss the impact of religious tolerance and interaction on the cultural fabric of the Post-Gupta period, as evidenced by the coexistence and spread of different faiths. | 3 |
| 57. What measures did Ashoka implement to shift the focus of Mauryan administration towards public welfare after the Kalinga War? | 3 |

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58. Describe the key characteristics that differentiate the Gandhara and Mathura schools of art during the Kushana period, focusing on their artistic influences and sculptural representations. **3**
59. Discuss how sea routes, particularly with the aid of monsoon winds, facilitated long-distance trade and connected diverse cultural spheres in ancient times. **3**
60. How did advancements in metallurgy during the Post-Gupta period, particularly the production of high-quality steel, influence trade and military capabilities? **3**
61. In the political map of India **3**
(a) Mark and label Lothal, an important center of maritime trade.
(b) Mark and label Tamralipti, a major port connected to Southeast Asian trade.
62. In the political map of India **3**
(a) Mark and label Sarnath, where the Buddha delivered his first sermon.
(b) Mark and label Kanchipuram, an important cultural and educational center in South India.
63. In the political map of India **3**
(a) Mark and label Nalanda Mahavihara, one of the most renowned centers of learning in ancient India.
(b) Mark and label Takshashila, a famous educational institution of the ancient world.
64. In the political map of India **3**
(a) Mark and label Pataliputra, the capital of the Maurya Empire.
(b) Mark and label Ujjain, an important administrative center of the Gupta Empire.
65. In the political map of India **3**
(a) Mark and label Vikramashila, a renowned center of higher learning during the early medieval period.
(b) Mark and label Bodhi Gaya, where the Buddha is believed to have attained enlightenment.

SECTION - D

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This section consists of 5 case based questions of 4 marks each.

66. Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow **4**
:

Magadha emerged as one of the most powerful kingdoms in ancient India because of its fertile land, mineral resources, and strategic location. Strong rulers expanded the kingdom and established efficient administrative systems. The king was the supreme authority and controlled the army, justice, and revenue collection. Officials were appointed to govern different regions and ensure smooth functioning of the state. Villages formed the lowest administrative units and were supervised by local leaders. Revenue mainly came from taxes on agriculture, trade, and natural resources. The kingdom maintained a powerful army consisting of infantry, cavalry, chariots, and elephants. Strong fortifications protected major cities. The availability of resources and effective administration enabled Magadha to defeat neighbouring states and establish political dominance in northern India.

- a. What was the main source of revenue in Magadha? **(1)**
- b. Which city later became the capital of Magadha? **(1)**
- c. Why was Magadha able to become a powerful kingdom? **(2)**

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67. Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow **4**
:

The Gupta age is often remembered for its achievements in literature, science, art, and education. Sanskrit became the leading language of scholarship, and writers produced works of lasting literary value. Scholars made important contributions to mathematics, astronomy, and medicine. Educational centres attracted students from various regions. Temple architecture and sculpture reached new levels of refinement, while paintings displayed remarkable creativity and technical skill. Religious life remained vibrant, with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism continuing to coexist. Trade and prosperity supported cultural activities, enabling scholars and artists to pursue intellectual and creative work. The achievements of this period had a long-lasting influence on Indian civilisation.

- a. Which language dominated literature during the Gupta period? **(1)**
- b. Name one famous Gupta scholar. **(1)**
- c. Why is the Gupta period called the Golden Age of India? **(2)**

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68. Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow **4**
:

The Mauryan period witnessed remarkable developments in culture, learning, and architecture. Ashoka promoted ethical values through inscriptions engraved on rocks and pillars. These inscriptions encouraged non-violence, tolerance, and moral conduct. Buddhism and Jainism received royal support, while other religious traditions also continued to flourish. Monumental architecture developed significantly, with stupas, pillars, caves, and sculptures displaying advanced artistic skills. Scholars studied medicine, agriculture, engineering, and governance. Practical knowledge was applied to irrigation, road construction, and city planning. The Arthashastra provides evidence of advanced administrative and economic understanding. Mauryan culture reflected a combination of intellectual growth, religious diversity, and artistic achievement that influenced later Indian civilisation.

- a. What message did Ashoka's edicts mainly promote? **(1)**
- b. Name one famous Mauryan architectural feature. **(1)**
- c. How did culture and knowledge develop during the Mauryan period? **(2)**

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69. Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow **4**
:

Following the decline of the Gupta Empire, regional kingdoms emerged across India. Although some areas experienced reduced long-distance trade initially, commerce gradually revived, particularly in southern India. Merchant associations became powerful and played a major role in economic life. Maritime trade expanded through ports along both coasts. Indian traders exchanged textiles, spices, metals, and precious stones with Southeast Asia, China, and Arab regions. Guilds organised production and protected the interests of traders and artisans. Textile manufacturing, bronze casting, stone carving, and jewellery production became important industries. Regional rulers encouraged trade and crafts because they generated wealth and strengthened their kingdoms. These developments contributed to economic growth and cultural interaction across different regions.

- a. Name one important merchant guild of South India. **(1)**
- b. Which type of trade expanded during the Post-Gupta period? **(1)**
- c. How did guilds and trade contribute to economic growth? **(2)**

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70. Read the given source carefully and answer the questions that follow **4**
:

The Early Vedic period began when the Indo-Aryans settled in the northwestern region of the Indian subcontinent. Their settlements were mainly located near rivers, which supported agriculture and cattle rearing. Villages formed the basic unit of society, and each village consisted of several families headed by the eldest male member. Society was simple and occupations were not fixed by birth. People could choose different professions according to their abilities. Women enjoyed a respected position and participated in social and religious activities. They were educated and could attend gatherings and discussions. The Aryans worshipped natural forces such as the sun, wind, rain, and fire. Their religious practices were uncomplicated and mainly involved prayers and hymns. Political life was organized around tribal groups led by a king, who was assisted by assemblies that helped in decision-making. These institutions prevented the ruler from becoming too powerful and ensured participation of the people in governance.

- a. What was the basic unit of Aryan settlement during the Early Vedic period? **(1)**
- b. Name any one assembly that advised the king. **(1)**
- c. How did the position of women reflect the social conditions of the Early Vedic period? **(2)**

SECTION - E

This section consists of 5 long answer questions of 5 marks each.

71. Describe the social structure and the position of women during the Early Vedic Period. **5**
72. Explain the functions and significance of guilds in regulating trade and crafts during ancient Indian periods. **5**
73. Analyze the long-term implications of implementing a robust spy system, as seen in the Mauryan administration, for the relationship between the governing authority and its populace, considering both benefits and potential drawbacks. **5**

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74. Evaluate the role of state patronage in shaping the cultural and scientific advancements during both the Mauryan and Kushana periods, identifying similarities and differences in its impact. **5**
75. Explain the primary functions and organizational structure of merchant and craft associations during ancient Indian periods. **5**

----- All the Best -----