



Social Science

IX Standard

Based on the Updated New Textbook

Salient Features :

- Complete Answers to Textbook Exercises.
- Exhaustive Additional Question in all Units.
- Chapter-wise Unit Tests with Answers.
- Quarterly Exam 2019, 2023 & 2024 [QY-'19, '23 & '24], Half Yearly Exam 2019, 2023 & 2024 [HY-'19, '23 & '24] and Common Annual Exam April 2023, 2024 & 2025 [April-'23, '24 & '25] questions are incorporated at appropriated sections.
- Common Annual Examination - April 2025 question paper is given with answers.



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Note from publisher

It gives me great pride and pleasure in bringing to you **Sura's Social Science** Guide for **9th Standard**. It is prepared as per the Updated New Textbooks.

This guide encompasses all the requirements of the students to comprehend the text and the evaluation of the textbook.

- Additional questions have been provided exhaustively for clear understanding of the units under study.
- Chapter-wise Unit Tests with Answers.

In order to learn effectively, I advise students to learn the subject section-wise and practice the exercises given. It will be a teaching companion to teachers and a learning companion to students.

Though these salient features are available in this Guide, I cannot negate the indispensable role of the teachers in assisting the student to understand the subject thoroughly.

I sincerely believe this guide satisfies the needs of the students and bolsters the teaching methodologies of the teachers.

I pray the almighty to bless the students for consummate success in their examinations.

Mr. Subash Raj, B.E., M.S.

Publications

All the Best

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Mo NTh	h is Tory	Geo Graphy	Civi Cs	eC o No Mi Cs	To Tal UNiTs
June	1	1	1	1	4
July	2,3	2,3	2	2	6
i MiD Ter M Tes T 10 UNiTs					
August	4,5	4,5	3	0	5
September	0	0	0	0	0
QUar Terl y e Xa M 15 UNiTs					
October	6,7	6	4	3	5
November	8	7	5	4	4
ii MiD Ter M Tes T 9 UNiTs					
December	9	0	0	0	1
hal F yearl y e Xa M					
January	10	8	6	5	4
February	11	0	0	0	1
March	iii MiD Ter M Tes T & revisio N 5 UNiTs				
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UNIT 1

HISTORY

Evolution of Humans and Society – Prehistoric Period



EXERCISE

i. Choose the correct answer:

1. _____ is genetically closest to humans. [QY-'19, '23 & '24; HY-'23]
 (a) Gorilla (b) Chimpanzee (c) Orang-utan (d) Great Apes
[ans: (b) Chimpanzee]
2. The period called _____ marks the beginning of agriculture and animal domestication. [April-'23]
 (a) Paleolithic (b) Mesolithic (c) Neolithic (d) Megalithic
[ans: (c) Neolithic]
3. Direct ancestor of modern man was _____. [QY-'23; April-'24 & '25]
 (a) Homo habilis (b) Homo erectus (c) Homo sapiens (d) Neanderthalman
[ans: (c) homo sapiens]
4. _____ refers to the area covering egypt, israel-palestine and iraq. [HY-'19]
 (a) Great Rift Valley (b) Fertile Crescent (c) Solo river (d) Neander Valley
[ans: (b) Fertile Crescent]
5. Sir Robert Bruce Foote, a geologist from England first discovered the _____ tools at pallavaram near Chennai.
 (a) Microlithic (b) Paleolithic (c) Mesolithic (d) Neolithic
[ans: (b) paleolithic]
6. (i) The period before the introduction of writing is called pre-history.
 (ii) The pre-historic people developed language, made beautiful paintings and artefacts.
 (iii) The pre-historic societies are treated as literate.
 (iv) The pre-historic period is called ancient.
 (a) (i) is correct (b) (i) and (ii) are correct
 (c) (i) and (iv) are correct (d) (ii) and (iii) are correct
[ans: (c) (i) and (iv) are correct]
7. (i) The Neolithic people used polished stone axes called Celts
 (ii) evidence of Neolithic village is found at payyampalli in Chennai district
 (iii) The cultural period that succeeded the Neolithic is called the Bronze age
 (iv) The period that witnessed domestication of animals and cultivation of crops is called Mesolithic
 (a) (i) is correct (b) (ii) is correct
 (c) (ii) and (iii) are correct (d) (iv) is correct [ans: (a) (i) is correct]



8. **assertion (a) : Many of the Mesolithic sites are founds nearby rivers and tanks.**
reason (r) : irrigation management developed during Mesolithic period.

- (a) A and R are correct and R explains A
 (b) A and R are correct but R doesn't explain A
 (c) A is correct but R is incorrect
 (d) A and R both are incorrect

[ans: (d) a and r both are incorrect]

ii. Fill in the blanks:

1. Hand axes and cleavers are the important tool types of the _____ culture. [QY & HY-'24]
 [ans: lower paleolithic]
2. The methods and techniques involved in the production of stone tools are called _____ technology. [ans: lithic]
3. _____ is known as the Middle Stone Age, as it is placed between the Paleolithic and Neolithic. [ans: Mesolithic period]

iii. Find out the correct statement:

1. (a) The concept 'survival of the fittest' contributed to the scientific understanding of human origins.
 (b) The book "On the Origin of Species" was published by Herbert Spencer.
 (c) Charles Darwin's theory of biological evolution connects with the process of natural selection.
 (d) Geology is the study of lithic technology.

- Ans:** (a) Correct.
 (b) Wrong. The book on the Origin of Species was published by **Charles Darwin**.
 (c) Correct.
 (d) Wrong. - Geology is the study of **the earth**.

2. (a) Among the Great Apes Orang utan is genetically the closest to humans.
 (b) The ancestors to humans were called Hominins and their origins have been traced to Africa.
 (c) Flake cannot be used for tool making.
 (d) Acheulian is the main block of stone from which small chips are flaked by using a hammer stone.

- Ans:** (a) Wrong. Among the great Apes **Chimpanzee** is genetically the closest to humans.
 (b) Correct.
 (c) Wrong. Flake is a small chip **removed from a large stone block called the core**.
 (d) Wrong. **Core** is the main block of stone from which small chips are flaked by using a hammer stone.

iv. Match the following:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Palaeo anthropology | - Teris |
| 2. Hand axe tools | - Venus |
| 3. Images on stone and bone | - Acheulian |
| 4. Red sand dunes | - Microliths |
| 5. Stone artefacts of small size | - The study of the human ancestors |

[QY-'19]

**Ans:**

1. Palaeo anthropology - The study of the human ancestors
2. Hand axe tools - Acheulian
3. Images on stone and bone - Venus
4. Red sand dunes - Teris
5. Stone artefacts of small size - Microliths

V. Answer the following briefly:**1. Discuss how the age of speculation made humans become conscious and knowledgeable.**

- Ans:** (i) Humans are the only species on earth concerned with understanding as well as explaining the world and the universe.
- (ii) In the course of evolution, humans became conscious and knowledgeable.
- (iii) They turned curious and began to think and ask questions about nature, organisms and the world around them.
- (iv) They worshipped Sun, Moon and various natural forces about which they developed their understanding, some of which were not scientific.

2. Write a note on the impact of pastoralism on the prehistoric people in Tamil Nadu.

- Ans:** (i) People practiced agriculture, domesticated cattle and sheep, and some of the groups were still hunting and gathering.
- (ii) Millets and rice were cultivated.
- (iii) Irrigation management developed.
- (iv) In the deltaic region, evidence of rice is seen in the megalithic sites like Adichanallur in Thoothukudi district and Porunthal near Palani.

3. list out the features of Megalithic Burial types.

[QY-'23]

- Ans:** (i) The Iron age is also known as megalithic, since people created burials with large stones for the dead people.
- (ii) Within these burials the skeletons or few bones of the dead persons were placed along with grave goods including iron objects, carnelian beads and bronze objects.
- (iii) Some of the burials do not have human bones and they have only the grave goods.
- (iv) They may be called Memorial Burials.

4. examine the tool making technical skills of lower paleolithic people.

[HY-'23 & '24]

- Ans:** (i) The lower palaeolithic people were hunters and food gatherers.
- (ii) They were intelligent enough to select naturally available stone block or pebbles to make their tools.
- (iii) They made various tools such as hand axes and cleavers to meet their subsistence needs.
- (iv) The tools have physical symmetry and convey the human's cognitive (perception) skill.

vi. answer the following in detail:**1. The developments in the fields of agriculture, pottery and metal tools are considered a landmark in the life of Megalithic period-substantiate.****Ans: (a) agriculture:**

- (i) People practiced agriculture, domesticated cattle and sheep.
- (ii) Millets and rice were cultivated.
- (iii) Irrigation management developed, since many of the megalithic sites are found nearby rivers and tanks.



- (iv) In the deltaic region, irrigation as a technology had developed.
- (v) Evidence of rice is seen in the megalithic sites like Adichanallur in Thoothukudi district and Porunthal near Palani.

(b) pottery:

- (i) Pottery is an important evidence found in the archacological sites.
- (ii) The iron age and sangam age people used the black and red colours to make blackware and redware pottery.
- (iii) Potteries were used for cooking, storage and dining purposes.
- (iv) The black and redware pottery has a black inside and a red outside, with lustrous surfaces.

(c) Metal tools:

- (i) Weapons such as swords and daggers, axes, chisels, lamps and tripod stands were also found.
- (ii) The iron tools were used for agriculture, hunting and gathering and in battles.

2. The history of humans is closely related to the history of the earth. elucidate.

[HY-'19 & '24; QY-'23; April-'24 & '25]

- Ans:**
- (i) The history of the humans is closely related to the history of the Earth.
 - (ii) The earth contains geological, archaeological and biological records of historical times in its upper layers.
 - (iii) They are important for reconstructing the history of the earth and various living organisms.
 - (iv) The fossil bones of the human ancestors are embedded in the earth's layers.
 - (v) Palaeoanthropologists and archaeologists excavate the soil and rock layers on the earth and extract evidence about human ancestors.
 - (vi) These layers and the fossils are scientifically dated to study the various stages in human evolution and prehistory.
 - (vii) Through the gathered evidence, they attempt to understand the evolution of human history and developments in a chronological order.



Fun with History

Students Activities

Mark the prehistoric sites on the world map.



Organize an exhibition on the pre-historic sites of Tamil Nadu.

Ans: activity to be done by the students.



Government Exam Questions

i. answer the following questions:

1. hominid and hominins

[QY-'19]

- (a) Who are hominids?
- (b) Who was the earliest human ancestor to make tools in africa?
- (c) how are the modern humans known?
- (d) Name any one species of this tribe

- Ans:** (a) Hominid refers to all the species of the modern and extinct great apes, which also includes humans.
- (b) Homo habilis was the earliest human ancestor to make tools in Africa.
- (c) Modern humans are known as Homo Sapiens.
- (d) Humans are the only living species of this tribe.



ADDITIONAL

i. Choose the best answer

1. We live in an age of _____ Technology.

- (a) Transport
- (b) Information
- (c) Agricultural
- (d) Scientific

[ans: (b) information]

2. The history of humans is closely related to the history of the _____

- (a) Planets
- (b) Earth
- (c) Solar system
- (d) Water bodies

[ans: (b) earth]

3. The study of human past through the analysis and interpretation of material remains is called _____.

- (a) Archaeology
- (b) Paleoanthropology
- (c) Geology
- (d) Biology

[ans: (a) ar chaeology]

4. The study of human ancestors and their evolution is called _____.

- (a) Paleoanthropology
- (b) Geology
- (c) Microbiology
- (d) Archaeology

[ans: (a) paleoanthropology]

5. The earth was formed approximately _____ billion years ago.

- (a) 5.5
- (b) 4.5
- (c) 4.54
- (d) 5.52

[ans: (c) 4.54]

6. palaeontology is the study of

- (a) Fossils
- (b) Coins
- (c) Inscriptions
- (d) Handwriting

[ans: (a) Fossils]

7. The capitoline Museum in _____ is perhaps the oldest surviving museum at present.

- (a) America
- (b) England
- (c) Italy
- (d) Greece

[ans: (c) italy]



8. Modern human called Homo Sapiens first appeared in
 (a) China (b) Europe (c) India (d) Africa
[ans: (d) africa]
9. The beginning of history writing is traced to the time of ancient _____.
 (a) Egyptians (b) Greeks (c) Romans (d) Indians
[ans: (b) Greeks]
10. The Father of history is _____.
 (a) Herodotus (b) Hercules (c) Aristotle (d) Socrates
[ans: (a) herodotus]
11. The museum of ennigaldi Nanna was established in _____.
 (a) Sumeria (b) Babylonia (c) Mesopotamia (d) Bulgaria
[ans: (c) Mesopotamia]
12. The oldest Capitoline museum is located in _____.
 (a) Italy (b) Germany (c) France (d) Belgium
[ans: (a) italy]
13. World's oldest university museum as is located at _____.
 (a) London (b) Ireland (c) Nalanda (d) Oxford
[ans: (d) oxford]
14. The study of Fossils is known as _____.
 (a) Immunology (b) Palaeontology (c) Microbiology (d) Geology
[ans: (b) palaeontology]
15. The stone -made chisel with a sharp cutting edge is known as
 (a) Flake (b) Bifaces (c) Acheulian (d) Burin
[ans: (d) Burin]
16. lithic technology involves _____.
 (a) electricity (b) water (c) land (d) stone
[ans: (d) stone]
17. Cro – Magnons belonged to _____.
 (a) Europe (b) Asia (c) America (d) Africa
[ans: (a) europe]
18. Cro – Magnons belonged to _____.
 (a) Lower Paleolithic period (b) Middle Paleolithic period
 (c) Upper Paleolithic period (d) Mesolithic period
[ans: (c) Upper paleolithic period]
19. The stone tools of lower paleolithic culture of Tamilnadu are found at _____.
 (a) Ayambakkam (b) Kottivakkam (c) Athirampakkam (d) Medavakkam
[ans: (c) athirampakkam]
20. lunates are tools in the shape of a _____.
 (a) circle (b) cube (c) crescent (d) cuboid
[ans: (c) crescent]



21. The cultural period that succeeded the Neolithic is called _____ period.
 (a) Lower Paleolithic (b) Mesolithic
 (c) Middle Paleolithic (d) Megalithic [ans: (d) Megalithic]
22. **assertion (a)** : The cultural period that succeeded the Neolithic is called the iron age.
reason (r) : The people of Neolithic period used iron technology.
 (a) A and R are correct and R explains A
 (b) A and R are correct but R does not explain A
 (c) A is correct but R is incorrect
 (d) A and R both are incorrect [ans: (a) a and r are correct and r explains a]

ii. Fill in the blanks

1. Prehistoric people were the pioneers of _____ knowledge [ans: creative]
 2. Charles Darwin published the book _____ in 1871. [ans: The Descent of Man]
 3. The long span of time in earth's history is divided into eras, periods and epochs by the _____ [ans: Geologists]
 4. _____ Museum at Oxford University is the oldest university museum in the world. [ans: ashmolean]
 5. Australopithecines were the _____ from which modern humans evolved. [ans: apes]
 6. The father of History is _____. [ans: herodotus]
 7. Animal bones are preserved due to _____. [ans: Mineralisation]
 8. The period before the introduction of writing is called _____. [ans: pre-history]
 9. The _____ is genetically the closest to humans. [ans: chimpanzee]
 10. The earliest tools made by human ancestors are found in _____ in Kenya [ans: lomekwi]
 11. Subsistence necessities of prehistoric humans were mainly _____ and _____. [ans: food, water]
 12. The human ancestors possibly used _____ language. [ans: sign]
 13. Levalloisian tools are named after the _____ town. [ans: levallois (French)]
 14. Some of the rock paintings of India are dated to _____ Paleolithic culture. [ans: upper]
 15. Mesolithic period is known as _____ age. [ans: Middle stone]

iii. Find out the correct statement

1. (a) early evidence of the Neolithic period is found in the fertile cr escent region of india.
 (b) Neolithic age is called the 'new age' because of the new grinding and polishing techniques used for the tools.
 (c) people preferred to live on river banks as it was a cool atmosphere.
 (d) Wheat and barley were cultivated at Mehrgarh.

- Ans:** (a) Wrong. Early evidence of the Neolithic period is found in the Crescent region of Egypt
 (b) Correct.
 (c) Wrong. People prefer to live on river banks as it was better for adaptation
 (d) Correct.



2. (a) in mesolithic period there was no knowledge of metal.
 (b) The stone tools are found near Chennai at athirampakkam
 (c) sir robert Bruce Foote belonged to spain
 (d) Basalt rocks are sedimentary rocks

Ans: (a) Correct.
 (b) Correct.
 (c) Wrong. Sir Robert Bruce Foote belonged to England
 (d) Wrong. Basalt rocks are Igneous rocks

iv. Match the Following

1. (a) Mesopotamia - (i) Tools
 (b) Homo sapient - (ii) Burials
 (c) Lunates - (iii) Herodotus
 (d) Menhirs - (iv) Modern human
 (e) The History - (v) Oldest Museum

[ans: (a) - v, (b) - iv, (c) - i, (d) - ii, (e) - iii]

2. (a) Ennigaldi - Nanna Museum - (i) 1471 C.E
 (b) Capitoline Museum - (ii) 1820-1903 C.E
 (c) Ashmolean Museum - (iii) 1809-1882 C.E
 (d) Herbert Spencer - (iv) 530 B.C.E
 (e) Charles Darwin - (v) 1501 C.E
 - (vi) 1677 C.E

[ans: (a) - iv, (b) - i, (c) - vi, (d) - ii, (e) - iii]

3. (a) Species of modern period - (i) Chimpanzee
 (b) Great apes - (ii) Africa
 (c) Human Ancestors - (iii) Homo erectus
 (d) Great Rift Valley - (iv) Hominins
 (e) Two million years ago - (v) Homo Sapiens
 - (vi) America

[ans: (a) - v, (b) - i, (c) - iv, (d) - ii, (e) - iii]

4. (a) Basalt - (i) Southern part of Tamil Nadu
 (b) Lemuria - (ii) Palk straits
 (c) Sivarakottai - (iii) SriLanka
 (d) Teris - (iv) Igneous rocks
 (e) Water crafts - (v) Continent
 - (vi) Red sand dunes

[ans: (a) - iv, (b) - v, (c) - i, (d) - vi, (e) - ii]

V. Answer the following briefly

1. What is information technology?

Ans: (i) We live in the age of information technology.
 (ii) The mobiles phones have literally put the world on our finger tips.
 (iii) The foundation for our modern life was facilitated by our ancestor's process of cognition in the prehistoric age.

**2. Mention the importance of the upper layers of the earth.**

- Ans:** (i) The upper layers of the earth help to reconstruct the history of the earth and various living organisms.
(ii) The fossil bones of the human ancestors are embedded in these layers.
(iii) Palaeonthropologists and archaeologists excavate the soil and rock layers on the earth and extract the evidence of human ancestors.
(iv) They attempt to understand the developments in human history more chronologically.

3. What is meant by stratigraphy?

- Ans:** The study of origin, nature, relationships of rock and soil layers that were formed due to natural and cultural activities is known as stratigraphy.

4. Where is Great rift valley located?

- Ans:** (i) The Great Rift Valley is a valley like formation.
(ii) It runs for about 6,400 km from Northern part of Syria to Central Mozambique in East Africa.
(iii) It is a feature visible from the space.
(iv) It has many prehistoric sites in Eastern Africa.

5. Where do we find the earliest lithic tools of human ancestors?

- Ans:** (i) The earliest tools made by human ancestors are found in Lomekwi in Kenya.
(ii) They are dated to 3.3 million years ago.
(iii) Oldowan tools occur in the Olduvai gorge in Africa.
(iv) The human ancestors used hammer stones and produced sharp flakes.
(v) The tools were used for cutting, slicing and processing food.

6. What are levalloisian tools?

- Ans:** (i) The lithic tool making tradition of the Levalloisian belonged to the Middle Paleolithic Culture.
(ii) Levalloisian tools are the implements made after preparing the core.
(iii) It was named after the town of Levallois in France.

7. Mention the importance of the Upper paleolithic period.

- Ans:** (i) The cultural phase that succeeded the Middle Paleolithic is called Upper Paleolithic.
(ii) This period marks innovation in tool technology.
(iii) Long blades and burians were produced.
(iv) They used different varieties of silica-rich raw materials.
(v) Numerous paintings and art objects were made.
(vi) The diversity of artefacts suggests the improvement in cognitive skills and the development of languages.

8. Neolithic age is called New age. Why?

- Ans:** (i) Neolithic Age is called New Age because of the new grinding and polishing techniques used for the tools.
(ii) It also used the flaked stone tools.
(iii) The introduction of domestication of animals and cultivation of plants at home led to the production and supply of large quantities of grains and animal food.

**9. What is meant by Cosmic-ray exposure dating?**

- Ans:** (i) Cosmic ray exposure dating is a method in which exposure to cosmogenic rays is done for dating the samples.
- (ii) The cosmic ray exposure dating of the artefacts in the Lower Paleolithic culture suggests that people lived near the Chennai region at several sites, about 1.5 million years ago.

10. What does the term burnishing mean?

- Ans:** (i) Neolithic people perhaps made the first pottery.
- (ii) They made pottery, using a slow wheel called turn - table or made pottery out of hand.
- (iii) Before firing, the pottery was polished with pebbles.
- (iv) This process is known as burnishing.

11. When was the foundation for sangam age laid?

- Ans:** (i) The Neolithic period was succeeded by Iron age.
- (ii) Iron was used technically.
- (iii) It preceded the Sangam Age.
- (iv) The iron age was a formative period and the foundation for the Sangam Age was laid.
- (v) During the iron age, many parts of Tamil Nadu were occupied by people.
- (vi) An exchange relationship developed among these people.

12. Mention the sites in Tamil Nadu where iron age evidence is found.

- Ans:** (i) The iron age evidence is found at many sites including Adichanallur in Thoothukudi district, Sanur near Madhuranthakam and Sithannavasal near Pudukkottai.
- (ii) Megalithic burial sites are found in the whole of Tamil Nadu.

13. What are memorial burials?

- Ans:** (i) In the iron age people made burials with large stones for the dead people.
- (ii) Within these burials, the skeletons or a few bones of the dead persons were placed along with grave goods including iron objects, carnelian beads and bronze objects.
- (iii) Some of the burials do not have human bones and they have only the grave goods.
- (iv) They may be called 'Memorial Burials'.

14. What is portholes?

- Ans:** (i) Partholes are holes found in the cists and dolmens on one side.
- (ii) They may have acted as the entrance to the burials.
- (iii) There is a view that they were meant for the movement of the soul or spirit.

15. Write a short note on i) archaeology ii) palaeoanthropology

- Ans:** (i) **archaeology:** Archaeology is the study of human past through the analysis and interpretation of material remains.
- (ii) **palaeoanthropology :** Palaeoanthropology is the study of the human ancestors and their evolution by the study of the fossil remains.

16. Write about three ages.

- Ans:** (i) **stone age** : the period when stone was mainly used for making implements.
- (ii) **Bronze age** : the period when bronze metallurgy (extraction of metal from ores) developed.
- (iii) **iron age** : the period when iron was smelted to produce implements.

**17. Write a short note on Great rift valley.**

- Ans:** (i) The Great Rift Valley is a valley-like formation that runs for about 6,400 km from the northern part of Syria to Central Mozambique in East Africa.
- (ii) This geographical feature is visible even from the space, and many prehistoric sites are found in eastern Africa.

18. Where is payyampalli located?

Ans: Payyampalli is a village in vellore district of Tamil Nadu.

vi. answer the following in detail.**1. What was contributed by herbert spencer and Charles Darwin towards biological evolution and understanding of human origins?**

- Ans:** (i) Herbert Spencer's biological evolution and Charles Darwin's theory concepts of Natural selection and Survival of the fittest contributed to the scientific understanding of human origins.
- (ii) Charles Darwin published the books on 'The origin of Species' in 1859 and, "The Descent of Man" in 1871.
- (iii) Natural selection means the process by which organisms that are better adapted to their environment would survive and produce more offsprings.
- (iv) Survival of the fittest means survival of the form that will leave the most copies of itself in successive generations.

2. The lower palaeolithic culture conveys the cognitive skill of the human ancestors. how?

- Ans:** (i) The lower palaeolithic culture is marked by the human ancestors of Homo habilis and Homo erectus.
- (ii) The human ancestors flaked the large stones and designed tools including hand axes.
- (iii) These tools, which are found in Africa, Asia and Europe are dated to about 1.8 million years ago.
- (iv) They made various tools such as hand axes and cleavers to meet their subsistence needs.
- (v) These tools are also known as bifaces.
- (vi) Bifaces are tools which have flaking on both sides.
- (vii) The hand axe tools are also known as Achulian.
- (viii) Achulian were the first hand axes recognised at a place called St. Acheul in France. Hence they are called Acheulian tools.
- (ix) These tools show physical symmetry and the cognitive skills of the lower palaeolithic culture.

3. The Upper palaeolithic period marks innovation in tool technology. Describe.

- Ans:** (i) The cultural phase that succeeded the middle palaeolithic is called upper palaeolithic.
- (ii) This period marks innovation in tool technology.
- (iii) Long blades and burins were produced.
- (iv) They used different varieties in silica - rich raw materials.
- (v) Numerous paintings and art objects were made.
- (vi) The diversity of artefacts suggests the improvement in cognitive skills and the development of languages.
- (vii) Microliths appeared in this phase.



- (viii) Horns and Ivory were used for making tools and artworks.
- (ix) Bone needles, fish hooks, harpoons and spears were used.
- (x) Pendants and richly carved tools were used.
- (xi) Images on stone and bones called Venus statues were produced in Europe and in some parts of Asia.

4. Mention the contribution of sir robert Bruce Foote towards paleolithic culture of Tamil Nadu.

- Ans:**
- (i) In 1863, Robert Bruce Foote, a geologist from England, first discovered the Paleolithic tools at Pallavaram near Chennai.
 - (ii) They are the earliest finds of such tools in India.
 - (iii) Hence, the hand axe assemblages were considered as the Madras Stone Tool Industry.
 - (iv) The tools that he discovered are in the chennai museum.
 - (v) The Paleolithic people hunted wild animals and gathered the naturally available fruits, roots, nuts and leaves.
 - (vi) They did not have knowledge of iron or pottery making, which developed much later in history.

5. What type of society and polity did iron age have?

- Ans:**
- (i) The Iron age society had farming communities, pastoralists and hunter gatherers.
 - (ii) Craft specialists, potters and blacksmith had emerged.
 - (iii) The society had several tribes.
 - (iv) The size of the burials and the variations found in the burial goods suggests numerous social groups.
 - (v) Some of them seem to have had organised chiefdoms.
 - (vi) Cattle lifting leading to wars and encroachment and expansion of territories had also started taking place in this period.

6. Why was the rise of scientific enquiry into the origin of humans possible?

- Ans:** The rise of scientific enquiry into the origin of humans was possible because of
- (i) The interest in collection of archaeological remains and the opening of museums after the Renaissance Movement.
 - (ii) The development of ideas of stratigraphy and geology.
 - (iii) Charles Darwin's theory of biological evolution.
 - (iv) The discovery of human and animal fossils, stone tools, and artefacts of early civilizations.
 - (v) The ability to decipher early scripts.



**UNIT TEST****Time : 40 Minutes****Marks: 25****i. Choose the Correct answer:****4 × 1 = 4**

1. Direct ancestor of modern man was _____
 (a) Homo habilis (b) Homo erectus
 (c) Homo sapiens (d) Neanderthal man
2. The period called _____ marks the beginning of agriculture and animal domestication.
 (a) Paleolithic (b) Mesolithic
 (c) Neolithic (d) Megalithic
3. Genetically _____ is closest to humans.
 (a) Gorilla (b) Chimpanzee
 (c) Orang-utan (d) Ape
4. (i) The period before the introduction of writing is called pre-history.
 (ii) The prehistoric people developed language, made beautiful paintings and artefacts.
 (iii) The prehistoric societies are treated as literates.
 (iv) The pre-historic period is called ancient.
 (a) (i) is correct (b) (i) and (ii) are correct
 (c) (i) and (iv) are correct (d) (ii) and (iii) are correct.

ii. Fill in the Blanks:**4 × 1 = 4**

1. The father of History is _____
2. Hand axes and cleavers are the important tool types of the _____ culture.
3. _____ is an object or tool made or modified by humans.
4. The Iron age is also known as _____ .

iii. Find out the correct statement:**3 × 1 = 3**

1. The concept 'survival of the fittest' contributed to the scientific understanding of human origins
2. The book on the Origin of Species was published by Herbert Spencer.
3. Darwin's theory of biological evolution connects with the process of natural selection.

iv. Match the Following:**5 × 1 = 5**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Palaeo anthropology | - a. Teris |
| 2. Hand axe tools | - b. Venus |
| 3. Images on stone and bone | - c. Acheulian |
| 4. Red sand dunes | - d. Microliths |
| 5. Stone artefacts of small size | - e. the study of the human ancestorse |

**V. Answer the following briefly:****2 × 2 = 4**

1. Write a note on the impact of pastoralism on the prehistoric people in Tamil Nadu.
2. Examine the tool making technical skills of lower Paleolithic people.

vi. answer the following in detail:**1 × 5 = 5**

1. The history of humans is closely related to the history of the earth. Elucidate.

Answer Key

- i.** 1. (c) Homo sapiens 2. (c) Neolithic 3. (b) Chimpanzee
4. (c) (i) and (iv) are correct
- ii.** 1. Herodotus 2. Lower Paleolithic, 3. Artifacts 4. megalithic
- iii.** 1. Correct; 2. Wrong. The book on the Origin of Species was published by Charles Darwin.
3. Correct.
- iv.** 1 - e, 2 - c, 3 - b, 4 - a, 5 - d
- v.** 1. Refer Sura's Guide Evaluation Q.No. V - 2.
2. Refer Sura's Guide Evaluation Q.No. V - 4.
- vi.** 1. Refer Sura's Guide Evaluation Q.No. VI - 2.

UNIT 2

Ancient Civilisations



EXERCISE

i. Choose the correct answer

1. The earliest signs to denote words through pictures
(a) Calligraphy (b) Pictographic (c) Ideographic (d) Stratigraphic
[ans: (b) pictographic]
2. The preservation process of dead body in ancient egypt
(a) Sarcophagus (b) Hyksos (c) Mummification (d) Polytheism
[Ans: (c) Mummification]
3. The sumerian system of writing [April-'23; HY-'24]
(a) Pictographic (b) Hieroglyphic (c) Sonogram (d) Cuneiform
[ans: (d) Cuneiform]
4. The harappans did not have the knowledge of [HY-'23; April-'25]
(a) Gold and Elephant (b) Horse and Iron
(c) Sheep and Silver (d) Ox and Platinum
[ans: (b) horse and iron]
5. The Bronze image suggestive of the use of lost-wax process known to the indus people. [QY-'19]
(a) Jar (b) Priest king (c) Dancing girl (d) Bird
[ans: (c) Dancing girl]
6. (i) The oldest civilisation in Mesopotamia belonged to the akkadians.
(ii) The Chinese developed the hieroglyphic system.
(iii) The euphrates and T igris drain into the Mannar Gulf.
(iv) hammurabi, the king of Babylon was a great law maker.
(a) (i) is correct (b) (i) and (ii) are correct
(c) (iii) is correct (d) (iv) is correct
[ans: (d) (iv) is correct]
7. (i) yangtze river is known as sorrow of China. [QY-'23]
(ii) Wu-Ti constructed the Great Wall of China.
(iii) Chinese invented gun powder.
(iv) according to traditions Mencius was the founder of Taoism.
(a) (i) is correct (b) (ii) is correct
(c) (iii) is correct (d) (iii) and (iv) are correct
[ans: (c) (iii) is correct]
8. What is the correct chronological order of four civilisations of Mesopotamia
(a) Sumerians - Assyrians - Akkadians - Babylonians
(b) Babylonians - Sumerians - Assyrians - Akkadians
(c) Sumerians - Akkadians - Babylonians - Assyrians
(d) Babylonians - Assyrians - Akkadians - Sumerians
[ans: (c) sumerians - akkadians - Babylonians - assyrians]



9. **assertion (a)** : assyrians of Mesopotamian civilisation were contemporaries of indus civilisation. [HY-'19; QY-'24]

reason(r) : The Documents of an assyrian ruler refer to the ships from Meluha

- (a) A and R are correct and A explains R
- (b) A and R are correct but A doesn't explain R
- (c) A is incorrect but R is correct
- (d) Both A and R are incorrect

[ans: (a) a and r are correct and a explains r]

ii. Fill in the blanks

1. _____ is a massive lime stone image of a lion with a human head. [April-'24]

[ans: The Great sphinx of Giza]

2. The early form of writing of the Egyptians is known as _____. [QY-'24] [ans: hieroglyphic]

3. _____ specifies the laws related to various crimes in ancient Babylonia.

[ans: hamurabi's code of law]

4. _____ was the master archive keeper of Chou state, according to traditions.

[ans: lao Tze]

5. The _____ figurines and paintings on the pottery from the sites suggest the artistic skills of the Harappans.

[ans: Terracotta]

iii. Find out the correct statement

- 1. (a) The Great Bath at Harappa is well-built with several adjacent rooms.
- (b) The cuneiform inscriptions relate to the epic of Gilgamesh.
- (c) The terracotta figurines and dancing girl made of copper suggest the artistic skills of Egyptians.
- (d) The Mesopotamians devised a solar calendar system.

Ans: (a) The Great Bath at Mohenjodaro is well built with several adjacent rooms.

(b) Correct.

(c) The terracotta figurines and dancing girl made of Bronze suggest the artistic skills of the harappans.

(d) The egyptians devised a solar calendar system.

2. (a) Amon was an "Egyptian God".

(b) The fortified Harappan city had the temples.

(c) The great sphinx is a pyramid-shaped monument found in ancient Mesopotamia.

(d) The invention of the potter's wheel is credited to the Egyptians.

Ans: (a) Correct.

(b) The fortified sumerian cities had the temples.

(c) The Great Sphinx of Giza is a massive limestone image of a lion with a human head in ancient egypt.

(d) The invention of the potter's wheel is credited to the sumerians.

iv. Match the following

1. Pharaoh - A kind of grass

[QY-'19]

2. Papyrus - the oldest written story on Earth

3. Great Law maker - Mohenjo-Daro

[HY-'19]

4. Gilgamesh - Hammurabi

5. The Great Bath - The Egyptian king

**Ans:**

1. Pharaoh - The Egyptian king
2. Papyrus - A kind of grass
3. Great Law maker - Hammurabi
4. Gilgamesh - the oldest written story on Earth
5. The Great Bath - Mohenjo-Daro

V. Answer the following briefly**1. The Egyptians excelled in art and architecture. illustrate.**

- Ans:** (i) Numerous sculptures, paintings and carvings attest to the artistic skills of Egyptians.
 (ii) The pyramids are massive monuments built as tombs of mourning to the Pharaohs.
 (iii) The great pyramids near Cairo are known as the Giza Pyramids.
 (iv) The Great Sphinx of Giza is a massive limestone image of a lion with human head.
 (v) It is one of the largest sculptures of the world.

2. state the salient features of the Ziggurats.

[QY-'23]

- Ans:** (i) Ziggurats were Pyramid shaped monuments found in the ancient Mesopotamia (Modern Iraq)
 (ii) One of the most famous ziggurats of the time is the one in the city of Ur.
 (iii) The ziggurats were at the city centre on a platform and appeared like steep pyramids.

3. hammurabi Code is an important legal document. explain.

[QY-'19 & '24; April-'23, '24 & '25]

- Ans:** (i) Hammurabi code is an important legal document that specifies the laws related to various crimes.
 (ii) It has 282 provisions specifying cases related to family rights, trade, slavery, taxes and wages.
 (iii) It is carved on a stone, which portrays Hammurabi as receiving the code from the Sun God Shamash.
 (iv) An 'eye for an eye' and a 'tooth for a tooth' form of justice is used in the Hammurabi code.

vi. answer the following in detail**1. Define the terms Hieroglyphics and Cuneiform with their main features.****Ans: (a) hieroglyphics:**

- (i) The Egyptians are well known for their writing system.
- (ii) Their form of writing is known as hieroglyphic.
- (iii) Hieroglyphic was used in the inscriptions on seals and other objects.
- (iv) The heretic, an another form of writing, was used for common purposes.
- (v) This form of writing used a pictogram based system.
- (vi) It was developed around 3000 BC (BCE) and many texts and books were written using this script.
- (vii) Now this inscription is on display in the British Museum London.

(b) Cuneiform:

- (i) Cuneiform is the Sumerian writing system.
- (ii) The shape of the letter is in the form of wedge and hence it is called cuneiform.
- (iii) Evolving around 3000 BC (BCE), it is one of the earliest scripts of the world.
- (iv) They used this script for commercial transactions and writing letters and stories.
- (v) The clay tablets contain loads of information on the Sumerian civilization.



2. To what extent is the Chinese influence reflected in the fields of philosophy and literature.

Ans: **philosophy and literature of the Chinese.**

- (i) Chinese poets and philosophers such as Lao Tze, Confucius, Mencius, MoTi (Mot Zu) and Tao Chien contributed to the development of Chinese civilization.
- (ii) Sun-Tzu, a military strategist, wrote the work called *Art of War*.
- (iii) The *Spring and Autumn Annals* is the official chronicle of the state, at the time.
- (iv) The Yellow Emperor's *Canon of Medicine* is considered China's earliest written book on medicine.
- (v) It was codified during the time of Han Dynasty.
- (vi) Lao Tze was the master archive keeper of Chou state.
- (vii) He was the founder of Taoism. He argued that desire is the root cause of all evils.
- (viii) Confucius was famous among the Chinese philosophers.
- (ix) He was a political reformer. His name means Kung the master.
- (x) He insisted on cultivation of one's own personal life.
- (xi) He said, "If personal life is cultivated, family life is regulated; and once family life is regulated, national life is regulated."
- (xii) Mencius was another well known Chinese philosopher.
- (xiii) He travelled throughout China and offered his counsel to the rulers.

3. Write about the hidden treasure of indus civilisation.

[QY-'19, '23 & '24; April-'23 & '25; HY-'24]

Ans: The Indus civilisation, also known as the Harappan civilisation, covers an area of over 1.5 million square kilometres in India and Pakistan.

planned Towns

- (i) Fortification, well-planned streets and lanes and drainages can be observed in the Harappan towns.
- (ii) The Harappans used baked and unbaked bricks and stones for construction.
- (iii) A civic authority perhaps controlled the planning of the towns.

agriculture and animal Domestication

- (i) The Harappans practised agriculture. They cultivated wheat, barley and various types of millets.
- (ii) Pastoralism was also known to them. They reared cattle, sheep and goats.

Metal, Tools and Weapons

- (i) The Harappans used **chert** blades, copper objects and bone and ivory tools.
- (ii) The tools and equipments such as points, chisels, needles, fishhooks, razors, weighing pans, mirror and antimony rods were made of bronze.

Textiles and ornaments

- (i) The Harappans used metal and stone ornaments. They had knowledge of cotton and silk textiles.
- (ii) They made carnelian, copper and gold ornaments. Faience, stoneware and shell bangles were also used.

Trade and exchange

The mention of 'Meluhha' in the cuneiform inscriptions is considered to refer to the Indus region.



Weights and Measures

The Harappans developed a system of proper weights and measures. Since they engaged in commercial transactions, they needed standard measures.

seals, sealings and scripts

The seals from various media such as steatite, copper, terracotta and ivory are found in the Harappan sites. They were probably used in the trade activities.

arts and amusement

- (i) The terracotta figurines, paintings on the pottery and the bronze images from the Harappan sites suggest the artistic skills of the Harappans.
- (ii) Toy carts, rattles, wheels, tops, marbles and hop scotches made in terracotta suggest the amusement of the Harappan people.

religion

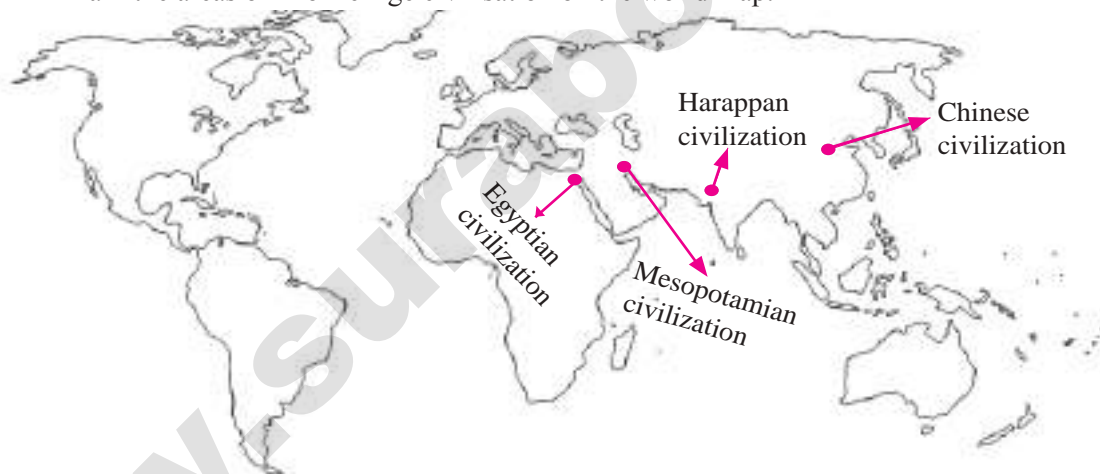
- (i) The Indus people had a close relationship with nature.
- (ii) They worshipped *pipal* trees. Some of the terracotta figures resemble the mother Goddess.



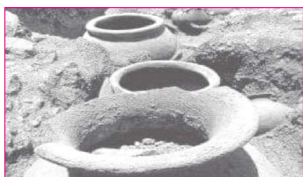
Fun with History

Students Activities

Mark the areas of Bronze Age civilisation on the world map.



Prepare a chart on the pyramids and the mummies.





Collect the pictures of the seals and the pottery of indus people.



Government Exam Questions

i. answer the following questions:

1. early Civilisations

[QY & HY-'19]

1. What is meant by civilisation?
2. Name the important early civilisations.
3. What did south india witness during the time of early civilisation?
4. What happened when civilisation began to take shape?

- Ans:**
1. Civilization means an advanced, organised way of life. It is an adaptation to particular environmental and cultural contexts.
 2. The Egyptian, the Mesopotamian, the Chinese and the Indus are the important early civilization.
 3. During the time of early civilisations, South India witnessed the emergence of Neolithic agro-pastoral communities and Microlithic form of life by hunter-gatherers.
 4. As civilizations began to take shape, huge buildings were built, the art of writing developed and science and technology contributed to the betterment of society.



ADDITIONAL

i. Choose the Best answer:

1. in the Neolithic way of life large groups of people were concentrated in the _____

- (a) Towns (b) Villages (c) Cities (d) River banks

[ans: (b) v illages]

2. The chiefdoms were _____ formations.

- (a) Political (b) Trade (c) Guild (d) Social

[ans: (a) political]



3. The early states had _____ stratification.
 (a) Political (b) Economic (c) Cultural (d) Social
[ans: (d) social]
4. hieroglyphics developed in _____
 (a) China (b) Egypt (c) Harappa (d) Sumeria
[ans: (b) egypt]
5. in the post Neolithic period _____ as science developed.
 (a) Botany and Zoology (b) Physics and Chemistry
 (c) Mathematics and Astronomy (d) Philosophy and astronomy
[ans: (c) Mathematics and astr onomy]
6. egypt lies in the North eastern corner of the _____ continent.
 (a) Asia (b) Australia (c) Africa (d) America
[ans: (c) africa]
7. egypt is irrigated by the river _____
 (a) Nile (b) Amazon (c) Congo (d) Brahmaputra
[ans: (a) Nile]
8. pharaoh was the egyptian _____
 (a) King (b) Noble (c) Trader (d) Teacher
[ans: (a) King]
9. lapis lazuli is a _____
 (a) Massive Stone (b) Precious Stone (c) Big Palace (d) Great Tomb
[ans: (b) precious stone]
10. hieroglyphics was a form of _____
 (a) Trade (b) Communication (c) Writing (d) Painting
[ans: (c) W riting]
11. Cuneiform writing system was developed by the _____
 (a) Akkadians (b) Sumerians (c) Assyrians (d) Babylonians
[ans: (b) sumerians]
12. Gilgamesh was a king of _____
 (a) Babylonia (b) Assyria (c) Sumeria (d) China
[ans: (c) sumeria]
13. Under the assyrians, lamassu was the deity of _____
 (a) Agriculture (b) Education (c) Peace (d) Protection
[ans: (d) pr otection]
14. Ziggurats were _____
 (a) Public halls (b) Palaces (c) Granaries (d) Temples
[ans: (d) Temples]
15. The indus valley culture is also known as _____
 (a) Egyptian (b) Sumerian (c) Chinese (d) Harappan
[ans: (d) harappan]
16. Zebu were harappan _____
 (a) Temples (b) Land (c) Cattle (d) Crops
[ans: (c) Cattle]
17. 'Meluhha' in the Cuneiform inscriptions referred to the _____ region
 (a) Sumerian (b) Indus (c) Babylonian (d) Assyrian
[ans: (b) indus]



18. Dancing girl of copper was excavated from _____

- (a) Sumeria (b) Mohanjodaro (c) Harappa (d) Rome

[ans: (b) Mohanjodaro]

19. The harappans used rohri chert for making _____

- (a) Vessels (b) Boats (c) Pottery (d) Blades

[ans: (d) Blades]

ii. Fill in the Blanks:

1. _____ is considered to be the first emperor of China.

[ans: shi huangdi]

2. _____ was the main occupation of the Mesopotamians.

[ans: agriculture]

3. Egypt is irrigated by _____

[ans: Nile]

4. The city of _____ later became the city of Babylon.

[ans: akkad]

5. The Hyksos were probably from _____

[ans: W est asia]

6. The Egyptian king was known as _____

[ans: pharaoh]

7. The high officials called _____ administered territories under the direction of Pharaohs.

[ans: viziers]

8. Lapis Lazuli is a _____

[ans: precious stone]

9. The Egyptian devised a _____ calendar consisting twelve months.

[ans: solar]

10. The word paper comes from _____

[ans: papyrus]

11. The Tigris and Euphrates drain into the _____

[ans: persian Gulf]

12. The oldest civilization in Mesopotamia belonged to the _____

[ans: sumerians]

13. The Semitic people called Amorites came from the _____

[ans: arabian desert]

14. The oldest written epic on earth is perhaps the Epic of _____

[ans: Gilgamesh]

15. The first military power in history was the _____ empire.

[ans: assyrian]

iii. Match the Following

- | | | |
|---------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. (a) Nile | - | (i) Greece |
| (b) Alexander | - | (ii) Egyptian King |
| (c) Persians | - | (iii) Mediterranean Sea |
| (d) Pharaoh | - | (iv) High officials |
| (e) Viziers | - | (v) Italy |
| | | (vi) Iran |

[ans: (a) - iii, (b) - i, (c) - vi, (d) - ii, (e) - iv]

- | | | |
|------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 2. (a) Sumerians | - | (i) Sargon |
| (b) Akkad | - | (ii) God of Sky and Wind |
| (c) Babylon | - | (iii) Nippur |
| (d) Assyria | - | (iv) Wedge shape |
| (e) Enlil | - | (v) Hammurabi |
| | | (vi) Ashurbanipal |

[ans: (a) - iii, (b) - i, (c) - v, (d) - vi, (e) - ii]

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 3. (a) Shi Huangdi | - | (i) Romans |
| (b) Wu Ti | - | (ii) Art of War |
| (c) Chinese Silk | - | (iii) Philosopher |
| (d) Sun-Tzu | - | (iv) Han Emperor |
| (e) Confucius | - | (v) Canon of Medicine |
| | | (vi) Qin dynasty |

[ans: (a) - vi, (b) - iv, (c) - i, (d) - ii, (e) - iii]



4. (a) Dholavira - (i) Rajasthan
 (b) Banawali - (ii) Sindh
 (c) Rakhigarhi - (iii) Maharashtra
 (d) Daimabad - (iv) UP
 (e) Alamgirpur - (v) Gujarat
 (vi) Haryana

[ans: (a) - v, (b) - i, (c) - vi, (d) - iii, (e) - iv]

iv. Find out the Correct statement.

1. (a) The sumerians are believed to have originated from central asia
 (b) The sargon was a famous ruler of the akkadians
 (c) Hammurabi was the first King of Egypt
 (d) The assyrian kings were the priests of ashur, the chief deity of the Babylonians

Ans: (a) Correct.
 (b) Correct.
 (c) Wrong. Hammurabi was the **sixth** king of **Babylon**.
 (d) Wrong. The Assyrian kings were the priests of Ashur, the chief deity of the **assyrians**.

2. (a) a typical sumerian city was surrounded by industries
 (b) in the sumerian society the priests maintained the account of the taxes
 (c) sumerians had well developed irrigation system
 (d) The sumerians traded with syria and asia Minor .

Ans: (a) Wrong. A typical Sumerian city was surrounded by **cultivable lands**.
 (b) Wrong. In the Sumerian society **the scribes** maintained the account of taxes.
 (c) Correct.
 (d) Correct.

3. (a) The Mesopotamian art included sculptures in stone and clay.
 (b) Mesopotamians were very poor in the field of science.
 (c) Mesopotamians were very familiar with weight and measurement system.
 (d) The Diagnostic handbook was contributed by the Chinese.

Ans: (a) Correct.
 (b) Wrong. Mesopotamians **excelled in maths, astronomy and medicine**.
 (c) Correct.
 (d) Wrong. The Diagnostic Handbook was contributed by the **Babylonians**.

4. (a) Yellow river caused frequent floods.
 (b) 'son of heaven' was the title given to the egyptian pharaoh.
 (c) The Great Wall of China gave protection from the attack made by the Greeks.
 (d) Wu Ti belonged to han empire.

Ans: (a) Correct.
 (b) Wrong. The title of 'Son of Heaven' was given to **the Chinese emperor shi huangdi**.
 (c) Wrong. The Great Wall of China gave protection from the attacks of the **Mongols**.
 (d) Correct.

V. Answer the Following Briefly:

1. Mention one important artefact of the egyptian civilization.

Ans: (i) The famous Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamen's tomb is located near Luxor in Egypt.
 (ii) Rich variety of offerings were made.
 (iii) The mask of his mummy was made of gold and decorated with precious stones.
 (iv) It is an important artefact of the Egyptian civilization.

**2. Why was the Egyptian civilization known as the Gift of the Nile?**

- Ans:** (i) Egypt is irrigated by the river Nile.
 (ii) The Egyptian civilization depended solely upon the flow of Nile river.
 (iii) The Nile River deposited fresh alluvium every year and helped to produce surplus supporting the civilization and served as a means of transport.
 (iv) Hence Egyptian civilization was called as the Gift of the Nile, by the Greek historian Herodotus.

3. What was the role of pharaoh in the Egyptian Kingdom?

- Ans:** (i) The Egyptian king was known as Pharaoh.
 (ii) He was considered divine.
 (iii) Under the Pharaoh there was a hierarchy of officials including viziers, the Governors of provinces, local mayors and tax collectors.
 (iv) Land belonged to king and was assigned to officials.

4. Name the region which was referred to as Mesopotamia.

- Ans:** (i) Mesopotamia refers to the region of Iraq and Kuwait in West Asia.
 (ii) Several kingdoms emerged around the city states of this region.
 (iii) It was around the early third millennium B.C. (BCE).
 (iv) The Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian and Assyrian civilization flourished here.

5. What does the term Mesopotamia mean?

- Ans:** (i) In Greek language 'Meso' means 'in between'.
 (ii) 'Potamus' means 'rivers'.
 (iii) The rivers of Euphrates and Tigris flow here and drain into the Persian Gulf.
 (iv) The Northern part of Mesopotamia is known as Assyria, and the Southern part is called Babylonia.

6. With whom did the Mesopotamia trade?

- Ans:** (i) Trade was an important economic activity of the Mesopotamian society.
 (ii) Traders assisted in the exchange of goods procured from the potters and artisans.
 (iii) They traded with Syria and Asia Minor in the West.
 (iv) In the east, they traded with Iran and Indus Valley civilization.
 (v) They used ships for navigation.
 (vi) Their temples acted as banks and lent credit on their own account.

7. Mention the contribution of the Mesopotamian civilization.

- Ans:** (i) The invention of the potter's wheel is credited to the Sumerians.
 (ii) They developed the calendar system of 360 days and divided a circle into 360 units.
 (iii) The Cuneiform system of writing was another contribution.
 (iv) The Hammurabi's law code was another legacy of the Mesopotamians.

8. Why was silk route considered very important?

- Ans:** (i) The Han emperor Wu Ti sent Zhang Qian as Emissary to the West in 138 BC(BCE), and thereby paved the way for the opening of the Silk route in 130 BC(BCE).
 (ii) Because of the silk route and the resultant trade connections, China benefited a lot during the rule of the Emperor Zhang.
 (iii) Chinese silk was very famous among the Romans during the time of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius in 166 AD(CE).
 (iv) Some of the Chinese silk might have reached from Rome through the ports of Tamizhagam.

**9. What was contributed by the Chinese to the world?**

- Ans:** (i) Chinese developed a writing system from an early time. Initially it was pictographic and later it was converted into symbols.
- (ii) The first paper making process was documented in China during the Eastern Han period (25–220 CE)
- (iii) The Silk Road or Silk Route was an ancient network of trade routes.
- (iv) Chinese silk was very famous among the Romans.

10. Give a description of the indus civilization.

- Ans:** (i) The Indus civilization, also known as Harappan civilization, covered over nearly 1.5 million sq. km area in India and Pakistan.
- (ii) Sutkagen-Por in the west on the Pakistan–Iran border, Shortugai (Afghanistan) in the north Alamgirpur (UP) in the India in the East and Daimabad (Maharashtra in India) in the south are the boundaries with in which Harappan culture has been found.
- (iii) Its main concentration was in the regions of Gujarat, Pakistan, Rajasthan and Haryana.

11. Describe the pottery used by the harappans.

- Ans:** (i) The Harappans used painted pottery.
- (ii) Their potteries have a deep red slip and black paintings.
- (iii) The pottery had shapes like dish-on-stands, storage jars, perforated jars, goblets, S-shaped jars, plates dishes, bowls and pots.
- (iv) The painted motifs, generally noticed on the pottery depict *pipal* tree leaves, fish-scale designs, interseecting circles etc.

12. how did the indus civilization decline?

- Ans:** (i) The Indus civilization started declining from about 1900 BC(BCE).
- (ii) Changes in climate, decline of the trade with Mesopotamia and drying up or flooding of the River Indus might have been the reasons for the decline of this civilization.
- (iii) People might have migrated towards Southern and Eastern directions.

13. Write a note on the religion of egyptian civilization?

- Ans:** (i) The Egyptians practiced polytheism. Amon, Re, Seth, Thoth, Horus and Anubis are some of the Gods of Egyptians.
- (ii) They worshipped many Gods, but the Sun God, Re, was the predominant one. Later on, the Sun God was called Amon.

14. What are the contributions of the Chinese civilization.

- Ans:** (i) Writing system was improved (ii) Invention of paper
- (iii) Opening of the Silk Road (iv) Invention of gun powder

vi. answer the following detail:**1. Write short notes on Mummies of egypt.**

- Ans:** (i) The preserved dead body is called the mummy.
- (ii) The Egyptians had the tradition of preserving the dead bodies using Natron salt, a combination of sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate.
- (iii) The preservation process is called mummification.
- (iv) After 40 days, when the salt absorbed all the moisture, the body was filled with sawdust and wrapped with strips of linen cloth and covered with a fabric.
- (v) The body was stored in a stone coffin called sarcophagus.



2. Under Chinese civilization shi huangdi was given the title 'son of heaven'. Justify the statement.

- Ans:** (i) Shi Huangdi founded the Qin (Chin) dynasty.
 (ii) He was given the title Son of Heaven.
 (iii) He is considered to be the first emperor of China.
 (iv) This period 221 and 206 BC (BCE) is known, as the Imperial Era in China.
 (v) He conquered the other principalities in 221 BC (BCE) and remained the emperor till 212 BC(BCE).
 (vi) He defeated the feudal lords and established a strong empire.
 (vii) He is credited with unifying China.
 (viii) Shi Huangdi destroyed the walled fortifications of different states and constructed the Great Wall of China to protect the empire from the invading nomadic people.
 (ix) He also built roads to integrate the empire.

3. sumerian religion was polytheistic. how?

- Ans:** (i) Sumerian religion was polytheistic.
 (ii) They worshipped several Gods and Goddesses.
 (iii) They worshipped Enlil, the God of sky and wind.
 (iv) The city of Nippur was centre of Entil's worship.
 (v) Ninlil was the Goddess of grain.
 (vi) The Babylonians worshipped Marduk and Ashur was the supreme god of the Assyrians.
 (vii) Ishtar was Goddess of love and fertility, Tiamat was the God of the sea and chaos; and Sin was the moon God.
 (viii) The kings were seen as representatives of the Gods on earth.
 (ix) The Mesopotamians developed a rich collection of myths and legends.
 (x) The most famous was the epic of Gilgamesh.



UNIT TEST

Time : 40 Minutes

Marks: 25

i. Choose the Correct answer:

4 × 1 = 4

1. The earliest signs to denote words through pictures.

- (a) Logographic (b) Pictographic
 (c) Ideographic (d) Stratigraphic

2. The harappans did not have the knowledge of

- (a) Gold and Elephant (b) Horse and Iron
 (c) Sheep and Silver (d) Ox and Platinum

3. The Bronze image suggestive of the use of lost-wax process known to the indus people.

- (a) Jar (b) Priest king
 (c) Dancing girl (d) Bird

**4. What is the correct chronological order of four civilizations of Mesopotamia?**

- (a) Sumerians - Assyrians - Akkadians - Babylonians
- (b) Babylonians - Sumerians - Assyrians - Akkadians
- (c) Sumerians - Akkadians - Babylonians - Assyrians
- (d) Babylonians - Assyrians - Akkadians - Sumerians

ii. Fill in the Blanks:**4 × 1 = 4**

1. The _____ figurines and paintings on the pottery from the sites suggest the artistic skills of Harappans.
2. The _____ is a massive lime stone image of a lion with a human head.
3. _____ specifies the laws related to various crimes in ancient Babylonia.
4. Ziggurats were _____ monuments.

iii. Find out the correct statement:**3 × 1 = 3**

1. Amon was considered the king of god in ancient Egypt.
2. The fortified Harappan city had the temples.
3. The great sphinx is a pyramid-shaped monument found in ancient Mesopotamia.

iv. Match the Following:**5 × 1 = 5**

1. (a) Sumerians - (i) Sargon
2. (b) Akkad - (ii) God of Sky and Wind
3. (c) Babylon - (iii) Nippur
4. (d) Assyria - (iv) Wedge shape
5. (e) Enlil - (v) Hammurabi
(vi) Ashurbanipal

V. Answer the following briefly:**2 × 2 = 4**

1. State the salient features of the Ziggurats.
2. Mention one important artefact of the Egyptian civilization.

vi. answer the following in detail:**1 × 5 = 5**

1. To what extent is the Chinese influence reflected in the fields of philosophy and literature.

Answer Key

- i. 1. (b) Pictographic 2. (b) Horse and Iron 3. (c) Dancing girl
4. (c) Sumerians - Akkadians - Babylonians - Assyrians
- ii. 1. Terracotta 2. The Great sphinx of Giza 3. Hammurabi's code of law 4. Temples
- iii. 1. Correct. 2. The fortified Sumerian cities had the temples.
3. The Great Sphinx of Giza is a massive limestone image of a lion with a human head in ancient Egypt.
- iv. 1. (a) - iii, 2. (b) - i, 3. (c) - v, 4. (d) - vi, 5. (e) - ii
- v. 1. Refer Sura's Guide Evaluation Q.No. V - 2.
2. Refer Sura's Guide Additional Q.No. V - 1.
- vi. 1. Refer Sura's Guide Evaluation Q.No. VI - 2.

UNIT 3

Early Tamil Society and Culture



EXERCISE

i. Choose the correct answer:

1. The name of the script used in the sangam age [HY-'23; QY-'24]
(a) English (b) Devanagari (c) Tamil-Brahmi (d) Granta
[ans: (c) Tamil-Brahmi]
2. The sri lankan chronicle composed in the pali language mentioning about merchants and horse traders from Tamil Nadu
(a) Deepa vamsa (b) Arthasastra (c) Mahavamsa (d) Indica
[ans: (c) Mahavamsa]
3. The notable Chola king credited with bringing forest lands under the plough and developing irrigational facilities [QY-'23; April-'25]
(a) Karikalan (b) Rajarajan I (c) Kulothungan (d) Rajendran I
[ans:(a) Karikalan]
4. inscription that mentions the Cheras [QY-'19]
(a) Pugalur (b) Girnar (c) Pulimankombai (d) Madurai
[ans: (a) pugalur]
5. (i) Coins as a medium of exchange were introduced for the first time in the Mesolithic age.
(ii) prakrit was the language used by the common people in Northern india during the Mauryan period.
(iii) vienna papyrus, a roman document, mentions trade related to Muziri.
(iv) The concept of Thinaï is presented in the Tamil grammar work of *Pathupāṭṭu*.
(a) (i) is correct (b) (ii) is correct
(c) (ii) and (iii) are correct (d) (iii) and (iv) are correct
[ans: (b) (ii) is correct]
6. (i) pathitruṇṇaṇṇu speaks about the pandya kings and their territory.
(ii) The akanaṇṇuṇṇu describes the trading activities at Kaveripoompattinam.
(iii) The Chola emblem was the tiger and they issued square copper coins with images of a tiger.
(iv) Neythal is a sandy desert region.
(a) (i) is correct (b) (ii) and (iii) are correct
(c) (iii) is correct (d) (iv) is correct
[ans: (c) (iii) is correct]

**ii. Fill in the blanks**

1. _____ are documents scripted on stones, copper plates, coins and rings. [HY-'19]
[ans: inscriptions]
2. _____ refers to systematically digging a site to recover material evidence for exploring societies of the past
[ans: archaeological excavation]
3. _____ the classic work on economy and statecraft authored by Kautilya during the Mauryan period. [QY-'23 & '24] [ans: arthashastra]
4. _____ is a poetic theme which means a class or category and refers to a habitat or eco-zone with specific physiological characteristics. [ans: Thinai]
5. _____ referred to the Westerners, including the Greeks, Romans and West Asian people. [ans: yav anar]

iii. Find out the correct statement

1. (a) Evidence of iron smelting has been found in Kodumanal and Guttur.
(b) Periplus of Erythraean Sea mentions about the pepper trade with India.
(c) Punch marked coins are the earliest coins used in India mostly made of gold.
(d) The Sangam Age has its roots in the Bronze Age.
- Ans:** (a) Correct
(b) Wrong. **pliny** mentions about the pepper trade with India.
(c) Wrong. Punch marked coins are the earliest coins used in India mostly made of **silver**.
(d) Wrong. The Sangam Age has its roots in **iron** Age
2. (a) The Cheras ruled over Kaveri delta and their capital was Uraiyur.
(b) The Maangulam Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions mention the King Karikalan.
(c) The terms Vanikan and Nigama appear in Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions were different types of merchants.
(d) Salt merchants were called Vanikars and they travelled in bullock carts along with their family.

- Ans:** (a) Wrong. The **Cholas** ruled over Kaveri delta and their capital was Uraiyur.
(b) Wrong. The Maangulam Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions mention the King **Nedunchezian**.
(c) Correct. The terms Vanikan denotes a trader, Nigama means a Guild. There were different types of merchants.
(d) Wrong. Salt merchants were called **Umanars** and they travelling in bullock carts along with their family.

iv. Match the following

- | | | |
|----------------|---|----------|
| 1. Epigraphy | - a narrative text presenting the important historical events | [QY-'19] |
| 2. Chronicle | - a Sangam Age port | |
| 3. Pastoralism | - an ornament made in precious stone. | |
| 4. Cameo | - the study of inscriptions | |
| 5. Arikamedu | - nomadic people earning livelihood by rearing cattle. | |

**Ans:**

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. Epigraphy | - the study of inscriptions |
| 2. Chronicle | - a narrative text presenting the important historical events |
| 3. Pastoralism | - nomadic people earning livelihood by rearing cattle. |
| 4. Cameo | - an ornament made in precious stone. |
| 5. Arikkamedu | - a Sangam Age port |

v. answer the following questions briefly**1. archaeological sites provide evidence of past history-Discuss.***[QY & HY-'19]*

Ans: (i) Archaeology is the scientific study of all the remains of the past that are discovered through digging or excavations conducted at various historical sites.

(ii) Archaeological sites provide ample evidences to know the history of past.

(iii) Archaeological sources include monuments, coins ornaments, shells of pottery, sculpture, weapons, tools, bones, vessels, etc, used by people in the past.

2. how important are coins as a source of evidence for the study of sangam age?*[QY-'24]*

Ans: (i) Coins as a medium of exchange were introduced for the first time in the Sangam age.

(ii) The coins of the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas, punch marked coins, and Roman coins form an important source of evidence from the Sangam Age.

(iii) Punch marked coins have been found at Kodumanal and Bodinayakanur.

(iv) Roman coins are concentrated in the Coimbatore region and are found at Azhagankulam, Karur and Madurai.

3. agriculture was one of the main sources of subsistence in sangam age. Give reasons.

Ans: (i) Agriculture was one of the main sources of subsistence.

[QY-'23]

(ii) Crops like paddy, sugarcane, millets were cultivated.

(iii) Both wet and dry land farming were practiced.

(iv) Varieties of rice such as sennel, vennel, and aivananel (a type of rice) were mentioned with literature.

(v) People lived in the forest adopted punam or shifting cultivation.

4. overseas interactions brought glory to ancient Tamilagam. Give examples in support.

Ans: (i) Tamil country had connections with countries overseas both in the east and west.

(ii) Roman ships used monsoon winds to cross the Western sea or the Arabian Sea to connect Tamilagam with the Western World.

(iii) Spices including pepper, ivory and precious stones were exported.

(iv) Metal including gold, silver and copper and precious stones were imported.

(v) Indian pottery has been discovered at Berenike, a port on the Red Sea coast.

(vi) A stone with the name "Perumpatankal" has been found at Khuan Luk Pat, Thailand. South east Asia was known as Suvana Bhumi in Tamil Literature.

**vi. answer the following in detail**

1. To what extent do you think the political powers of Tamilagam influenced Sangam Age polity?

Ans: sangam age polity:

- (i) The Sangam age has its roots in the Iron Age.
- (ii) During the Iron Age, people were organised into chiefdoms.
- (iii) From such communities of Iron Age emerged the Vendhars of the early historic period and the Velirs of the Sangam Age were Chieftains.
- (iv) Among the political powers of the Sangam Age, the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas occupied pre-eminent positions.
- (v) They were known as Muvendhar.
- (vi) The Muvendhar controlled the major towns and ports of the Sangam period.
- (vii) The Cheras called Keralaputras controlled the region of present day Kerala and also the western parts of Tamil Nadu.
- (viii) The Silappathikaram speaks about Cheran Senguttuvan.
- (ix) The Cholas ruled over the Kaveri delta and northern parts of Tamil Nadu.
- (x) Pattinappalai is a long poem about Kaveripoompattinam.
- (xi) Silappadhikaram describes the trading activities at Kaveripoompattinam.
- (xii) The Pandyas who ruled over the Southern part of Tamil Nadu are referred to in the Ashokan inscriptions.
- (xiii) The Mangulam Tamil Brahmi inscription mentions the King Nedunchezhan.
- (xiv) Apart from the Vendhars, there were Velirs and numerous chieftains who occupied territories on the margins of the Muvendhar.

2. indicate how the industries and crafts of the sangam age contribute to their economy.

[QY-'23 & '24; HY-'23; April-'25]

- Ans:**
- (i) Craft production and craft specialisation were important aspects of urbanisation.
 - (ii) In the Sangam Age there were professional groups that produced various commodities.
 - (iii) The system of production of commodities is called industry.
 - (iv) Iron smelting was undertaken in traditional furnaces and such furnaces equipped with terracotta pipes and raw ore have been found in many archaeological sites.
 - (v) Evidence of iron smelting was found in Kodumanal and Guttur.
 - (vi) Iron implements for agriculture and warfare were produced.
 - (vii) Roman gold coins were used to make jewellery.
 - (viii) Evidence of gold smelting was found at Pattanam in Kerala.
 - (ix) Specialised groups called vanikars travelled in groups trading goods and commodities between regions.
 - (x) Barter was the primary mode of exchange.
 - (xi) Tamilagam exported pepper, ivory and precious stones to the western world and imported gold, silver, copper etc.
 - (xii) Indian pottery has been discovered at Berenike, a port on the Red Sea Coast.
 - (xiii) A stone with the name 'Perumpatankal' has been found at Khuan Luk Pat, Thailand.
 - (xiv) South East Asia was known as Suvarna Bhoomi in Tamil literature.
 - (xv) The economy of the Sangam Age was mixed as elaborated in the Thina concept. People practiced agriculture, pastoralism, trade and money exchange, hunting and gathering and fishing depending upon the eco zones in which they lived.



Fun with History

Students Activities

Mark on the map of south india, the ancient Tamilagam and the territories of Tamil kingdoms. visit a museum and collect information about inscriptions, coins and instruments used by the ancient people.

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| (i) Arabian Sea, | (ii) Korkai, [HY-'24; April-'25] | (iii) Chennai, [HY-'24] |
| (iv) Arikamedu, [QY-'23 & '24; HY-'23; April-'25] | (v) Tondi [HY-'24; April-'25] | |
| (vi) Muchiri, | (vii) Madurai [QY & HY-'24; April-'25] | |
| (viii) Uraiyur [April-'25] | (ix) Kanyakumari [April-'25] | (x) Kaveripattinam [April-'25] |
| (xi) Vanchi [April-'25] | | |

Ans:



visit the early historic sites of arikamedu, Kaveripoompattinam, Keezhadi etc.,

Ans: activity to be done by the students.

Conduct a study on materials excavated from prehistoric sites and on Tamil - Brahmi script.

Ans: activity to be done by the students.



Government Exam Questions

i. Choose the best answer

1. sangam age port [April-'24]
 (a) Chennai (b) Madurai (c) Arikamedu (d) Kanchi

[ans: (c) arikamedu]

ii. answer the following questions:

1. Write only the events for the following time line. [QY & HY-'19]

- (i) 1300 BC (BCe) to 300 BC (BCe)
- (ii) 300 BC (BCe) to 300 aD (Ce)
- (iii) 1st Century aD (Ce)
- (iv) 2nd Century aD (Ce)
- (v) 300 aD (Ce) to 500 aD (Ce)

- Ans:** (i) Iron Age or Megalithic period.
 (ii) Early Historic period.
 (iii) Pliny's Natural History.
 (iv) Ptolemy's Geography.
 (v) Post sangam Age.

2. hero stones:

[QY & HY-'19]

- a. What was the common practice in a pastoral society?
- b. Who plundered the cattle wealth of enemies?
- c. how were the dead warriors remembered?
- d. Which Tamil text describes the procedures for erecting hero stones?

- Ans:** a. As cattle were considered an important source of wealth, raiding cattle owned by adjoining tribes and clans was a common practice in a pastoral society.
 b. Tribal chieftains plundered the cattle wealth of enemies.
 c. Memorial stones were erected in their honour.
 d. Tholkappiyam describes the procedures for erecting herostones.



ADDITIONAL

i. Choose the best answer

1. The earliest written work on Tamil grammar is _____
 (a) Agananuru (b) Purananuru (c) Tholkappiyam (d) Natrinai

[ans: (c) Tholkappiyam]

2. pathupattu includes _____ long songs

- (a) Five (b) Eight (c) Twelve (d) Ten

[ans: (d) Ten]

3. pathinen Kilkanakku comprises of _____ texts.

- (a) Fifteen (b) Eighteen (c) Twelve (d) Fourteen

[ans: (b) eighteen]

4. epigraphy is the study of _____

- (a) Inscriptions (b) Stones (c) Excavations (d) Paintings

[ans: (a) inscriptions]



5. Description of the procedures for erecting herostones is given in _____
 (a) Thirukkural (b) Tholkappiyam (c) Ettuthogai (d) Kurinji pattu
[ans: (b) Tholkappiyam]
6. The sangam age port arikkamedu is near _____
 (a) Velachery (b) Puducherry (c) Karaikal (d) Madurai
[ans: (b) puducherry]
7. arthasastra was written by _____
 (a) Visakadatta (b) Chanakya (c) Kalidasa (d) Krishna
[ans: (b) Chanakya]
8. erythrean sea refers to the waters around the _____
 (a) Red sea (b) Mediterranean sea
 (c) Black sea (d) Caspian sea **[ans: (a) red sea]**
9. The book Natural history was written in _____
 (a) Latin (b) Spanish (c) Greek (d) English
[ans: (a) latin]
10. hermapollon was a _____
 (a) City (b) Book (c) Ship (d) Language
[ans: (c) ship]
11. Muvendars belonged to _____ period
 (a) Mauryan (b) Sangam (c) Prehistoric (d) Neolithic
[ans: (b) sangam]
12. The Cheras controlled the region of present day _____
 (a) Karnataka (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Kerala
[ans: (d) Kerala]
13. aivananel was a type of _____
 (a) Cotton (b) Wheat (c) Rice (d) Iron
[ans: (c) rice]
14. Kalamceyko were _____
 (a) Weavers (b) Potters
 (c) Agriculture (d) Writers **[ans: (b) potters]**
15. (i) Tamil–Brahmi was the first script used for writing in Tamil Nadu
 (ii) The archaeological survey of india (asi) is a state government agency.
 (iii) Cameo was the metal used for making vessels.
 (iv) punch marked coins have been found in Keezhadi.
 (a) (i) is correct. (b) (ii) and (iii) correct.
 (c) (ii) and (iv) correct. (d) (i) and (iv) correct.
[ans: (a) (i) is correct.]
16. (i) The bow and arrow was the symbol of the Cholas.
 (ii) river Kaveri drains into arabian sea.
 (iii) pandyan rulers patronised Tamil sangam.
 (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) is correct. (b) (i) is correct.
 (c) (ii) is correct. (d) (iii) is correct.
[ans: (d) (iii) is correct]



17. (i) Kodumanal is located near er ode in Tamil Nadu.
 (ii) rural centres have a larger population involved in non-agrarian, commercial and political occupation.
 (iii) sangam age people were ignorant about shell bangles and glass beads.
- (a) (i) is correct. (b) (i) and (iii) is correct.
 (c) (i), (ii) and (iii) is correct. (d) (ii) and (iii) is correct.

[ans: (a) (i) is correct.]

ii. Fill in the Blanks:

1. The earliest written work on Tamil Grammar is _____. [ans: Tholkappiyam]
 2. The long narrative poem of very high quality is called an _____. [ans: epic]
 3. Hero stones of the Pallava period occur in large numbers around the Chengam region near _____ District. [ans: Thiruvannamalai]
 4. In the Northern part of India during the Mauryan period the common people used the language _____. [ans: prakrit]
 5. Arikamedu near Puducherry is a Sangam Age _____. [ans: port]
 6. Periplus of Erythrean Sea is an ancient _____ text. [ans: Greek]
 7. Vienna Papyrus, a greek document datable to the second century C.E mentions about _____ trade of olden days. [ans: Muziri's]
 8. The plant extensively used for writing in ancient Egypt was _____. [ans: papyrus]
 9. Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas together were called _____. [ans: Muvendhar]
 10. Cheran Senguttuvan built temple for _____. [ans: Kannagi]

iii. Find out the Correct statement:

1. (a) The classical sangam corpus consists of the Tholkappiyam, the pathinen Melkanakku and the pathinen Kilkanakku only.
 (b) There are 1300 couplets in Thirukkural.
 (c) The development of script marks the beginning of the historical period.
 (d) in Tamil Nadu Tamil Brahmi inscriptions have been found mostly on cave surfaces and rock shelters. These caves were the abodes of Buddhist monks.

- Ans: (a) Wrong. The classical Sangam Corpus consists of the Tholkappiyam, The Pathinen Melkanakku, Pathinen Kilkanakku and the **Five epics**.
 (b) Wrong. There are **1330** complets in Thirukkural.
 (c) Correct.
 (d) Wrong. In Tamil Nadu Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions have been found mostly on cave surfaces and rock shelters. These caves were the abodes of **mostly Jain** monks.

2. (a) pathinen Melkanakku describes the procedures for erecting hero stones.
 (b) During the sangam age, the Neidhal landscape followed the pastoral way of life.
 (c) pulimankombai is a village in the Kavari river valley in Thanjavur district.
 (d) Nattam, Kottai and Medu refer to the archaeological sites having mounds.

- Ans: (a) Wrong. **Tholkappiyam** describes the procedures for erecting herostones.
 (b) Wrong. During the Sangam Age, the **Mullai** landscape followed the pastoral way of life.
 (c) Wrong. Pulimankombai is a village in the **v aigai** river valley in **Theni** district.
 (d) Correct.



3. (a) The Indian Treasure Trove Act was passed in the year 1972.
 (b) Pandya Kavataka is mentioned in Mahavamsa.
 (c) Erythrean sea refers to the water around the Mediterranean sea.
 (d) Ptolemy mentions that the Pandyas of Madurai controlled the port of Bacare on the Kerala coast.

Ans: (a) Wrong. The Indian Treasure Trove Act was passed in the year **1878**.
 (b) Wrong. Pandya Kavataka is mentioned in **Arthashastra**.
 (c) Wrong. Erythrean sea refers to the water around the **Red Sea**.
 (d) Wrong. **Pliny, the Elder** mentions that the Pandyas of Madurai controlled the port of Bacare on the Kerala coast.

4. (a) Vienna Papyrus, a Roman document is in the Papyrus Museum attached to the Austrian National Library Vienna (Austria).
 (b) Ashoka's inscriptions give references to Pallavas in Tamil Brahmi script.
 (c) Akathinai deals particularly with war and heroism.
 (d) Kurinji refers to the sandy desert region.

Ans: (a) Wrong. Vienna Papyrus, a **Greek** document is in the Papyrus Museum attached to the Austrian National Library Vienna (Austria).
 (b) Wrong. Ashoka's inscriptions give references to the **Cheras, Cholas and the Pandyas** in Tamil Brahmi script.
 (c) Wrong. Akathinai refers to various situations of **love and family life**.
 (d) Wrong. Kurinji refers to the **hilly and mountainous** region.

5. (a) The Mauryan emperor Chandra Gupta Maurya conquered Kalinga and parts of Andhra and Karnataka regions.
 (b) 'Muvendhars' refer to the three kings of the Rashtrakutas.
 (c) Coins of the Pandya kings have been found in Karur.
 (d) Karikalan is a notable king among the Chola kings.

Ans: (a) Wrong. The Mauryan **king Ashoka** conquered Kalinga and parts of Andhra and Karnataka regions.
 (b) Wrong. Muvendhar refers to **the Chera, Chola, Pandya kings**.
 (c) Wrong. Coins of the **Chera** kings have been found in Karur.
 (d) Correct.

6. (a) Velirs were the seven chiefs who were very unkind and stingy rulers.
 (b) Nediyon and Mudathirumaran belonged to the Chera dynasty.
 (c) The Chola emblem was lion and they issued square copper coins with images of a lion on the obverse, tiger and sacred symbols on the reverse.
 (d) The Sangam age society was a society in transition from a tribal community to a larger kingdom.

Ans: (a) Wrong. Velirs were the seven chiefs who were **very generous**.
 (b) Wrong. Nediyon and Mudathirumaran belonged to the **Pandya** dynasty.
 (c) Wrong. The Chola Emblem was the **tiger** and they issued square copper coins with images of a **tiger** on the obverse, **elephant** and the sacred symbols on the reverse.
 (d) Correct.

**iv. Match the Following:**

1. (a) Epigraphy - (i) Work on Tamil Grammar
 (b) Tolkappiam - (ii) Eight anthologies
 (c) Pathinen Kilkanakku - (iii) Thiruvalluvar
 (d) Ettuthogai - (iv) Inscriptions
 (e) Thirukkural - (v) Manimekalai
 (vi) 18 minor works

[ans: (a) - iv, (b) - i, (c) - vi, (d) - ii, (e) - iii]

2. (a) Tamil-Brahmi - (i) Sangam Age port
 (b) Arikamedu - (ii) Precious metal
 (c) Cameo - (iii) First script
 (d) Bullion - (iv) Buddhist chronicle
 (e) Mahavamsa - (v) Chanakya
 (vi) An ornament

[ans: (a) - iii, (b) - i, (c) - vi, (d) - ii, (e) - iv]

3. (a) National History - (i) Interior
 (b) Papyrus - (ii) Five Tinas
 (c) Akam - (iii) Pliny the Elder
 (d) Puram - (iv) Silappathikaram
 (e) Aintinai - (v) Plant
 (vi) Exterior

[ans: (a) - iii, (b) - v, (c) - i, (d) - vi, (e) - ii]

4. (a) Kurinji - (i) Riverine Tract
 (b) Marutam - (ii) Coastland
 (c) Mullai - (iii) Mountain
 (d) Neytal - (iv) Hill Region
 (e) Palai - (v) Forest
 (vi) Desert

[ans: (a) - iv, (b) - i, (c) - v, (d) - ii, (e) - vi]

V. Answer the following questions briefly:**1. Mention the sources for the study of the sangam age.****Ans:** The sources for reconstructing the history of the Sangam age are:

- (i) Classical Tamil literature.
- (ii) Archaeological excavations and material culture
- (iii) Epigraphy
- (iv) Non-Tamil and foreign literature.

2. Name the Classical sangam corpus.**Ans:** The Classical Sangam corpus consists of the *Tholkappiyam*, the *Pathinen Melkanakku* (18 major works) and the *Pathinen Kilkanakku* (18 minor works) and the five epics.**3. Name the five epics of Tamil literature.****Ans:** (i) The epics or *Kappiyams* are long narrative poem of very high quality.

- (ii) They are (a) *Silappathikaaram* (b) *Manimekalai*, (c) *Seevaka Chinthamani* (d) *Valaiyapathi* (e) *Kundalakesi*.



4. What are inscriptions?

- Ans:** (i) Inscriptions are documents written on stone, copper plates and other media such as coins, rings, etc.
 (ii) Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions.

5. Mention about the first script used in Tamil Nadu.

- Ans:** (i) Tamil-Brahmi was the first script used for writing in Tamil Nadu.
 (ii) Inscriptions in Tamil-Brahmi are found in caves and rock shelters, and on pottery and other objects (coins, rings and seals).

6. Name the sites of caves with Brahmi inscriptions.

- Ans:** (i) Tamil Brahmi inscriptions have been found in more than 30 sites in Tamil Nadu mostly on cave surfaces and rock shelters.
 (ii) These caves were the abodes of monks, most by Jains.
 (iii) Maangulam, Muttupatti, Pugahur, Arachalur and Kongar Puliyankulam and Jambai are some of the major sites of such caves with Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions.
 (iv) Around Madurai many such caves with Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions can still be seen.

7. What is meant by vandalism?

- Ans:** (i) Among the old inscriptions, people (both local and tourists) have marked their names thereby destroying some of the ancient inscriptions.
 (ii) Such acts of destruction of heritage property belonging to others are called Vandalism.

8. What were hero stones?

- Ans:** (i) Hero stones are memorials erected for those who lost their lives in battles and in cattle raids.
 (ii) As cattle were considered an important source of wealth, raiding cattle owned by adjoining tribes and clans was a common practice in a pastoral society.
 (iii) Tribal chieftains plundered the cattle wealth of enemies whose warriors fought to protect their cattle.
 (iv) Many warriors died in such battles and were remembered as martyrs.
 (v) Memorial stones were erected in their honour.

9. state the importance of the pulimankombai hero stones.

- Ans:** (i) Pulimankombai is a village in the Vaigai river valley in Theni district.
 (ii) In 2006, rare hero stone inscriptions in Tamil Brahmi script were discovered in this village.
 (iii) One of the inscriptions from Pulimankombai reads to this effect. "The stone of Tiyan Antavan who was killed in a cattle raid at the village of Kadalur."

10. Mention the proof indicating that early Tamils had trade contacts with West Asia and beyond.

- Ans:** Pottery inscribed with names in Tamil-Brahmi script has also been found in Berenike and Quseir al Qadhim in Egypt and in Khor Rori in Oman indicating that early Tamils had trade contacts with West Asia and beyond.

11. explain the term prakrit.

- Ans:** (i) Prakrit was the language used by the common people in the Northern part of India during the Mauryan period.
 (ii) People engraved their names on pottery to indicate ownership.
 (iii) Many of the names engraved in Tamil and some in Prakrit.

**12. Write a note on Thirukkural.**

Ans: *Thirukkural* was composed by Thiruvalluvar. In 1330 couplets *Thirukkural* considers question of morality, statecraft and love.

13. Mention the sites of the archaeological excavations of the sangam age.

Ans: (i) Archaeological excavations at the early historic sites have been the source of evidence of the activities of the Sangam age people.
 (ii) Excavations at Arikamedu, Azhagankulam, Keezhadi, Kodumanal, Uvaiyur, Kanchipuram, Kaveripumpattinam, Korkai, Vasavasamudiram in Tamil Nadu and Pattanam in Kerala have provided all the evidence we have of this period.

14. What does the term archaeological excavation refer to?

Ans: Archeological excavation refers to systematic digging of a site to recover material evidence for exploring and interpreting societies of the past.

15. What is Thinai?

Ans: (i) Thinai is a poetic theme, which means a class or category.
 (ii) It refers to a habitat or ecozone with specific physiographical characteristics.
 (iii) The concept of Thinai is presented in the Tamil Grammar work of Tholkappiyam.
 (iv) Sangam poems are set in these specific ecozones and reveal the human life has deep relationships with nature.

16. Name the five Thinais.

Ans: The five landscapes are called together Ainthinai.

They are (i) Kurinji – referring to the hilly and mountainous region.
 (ii) Mullai – referring to forested and pastoral region.
 (iii) Marutham – referring to the riverine valley.
 (iv) Neythal – referring to coastal region.
 (v) Paalai – referring to sandy desert region.

17. how can we say that the Tamils were independent of Mauryan authority? [hoTs]

Ans: (i) The Mauryan king Asoka, conquered Kalinga (Odisha) and parts of what is present day Andhra and Karnataka regions.
 (ii) Ashokan inscriptions found in present day Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are not seen in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
 (iii) Therefore, we may conclude that the Tamil rulers independent of Mauryan authority.

18. Mention the names of velirs.

Ans: (i) Velirs of the Sangam age were chieftains.
 (ii) They occupied territories on the margins of the Muvendhars.
 (iii) The velirs use the seven chiefs Pari, Kari, Ori, Nalli, Pegan, Ai and Athiyaman.
 (iv) Sangam poems were extensively about the generosity of these velirs.

19. Write about the Tamil society of the sangam times.

Ans: (i) There were several Clan – based communities including groups such as Panar, Paratavar, Eyinar, Uzhavar, Kanavar, Vettuvar, and Maravar.
 (ii) The Vendhars, chiefs and their associates formed the higher social groups.
 (iii) There were priests who were known as Antanars.
 (iv) There were artisan groups specialised in pottery and blacksmithy.



20. What information do we get about the women of the sangam age.

- Ans:** (i) Women were frequently referred to in Tamil texts as mothers, heroines and foster-mothers.
 (ii) Women from Panar families, dancers, poets, and royal women were all portrayed in Sangam literature.
 (iii) There are references to women from all five eco zones.
 (iv) There are references to women protecting Thinai fields from birds and Umanar kula women selling salt showing that women were involved in primary production.

21. Name the texts of ettuthogai.

- Ans:** (i) *Nattrinai* (ii) *Kurunthogai* (iii) *Paripaadal*
 (iv) *Pathittrupathu* (v) *Aingurunuru* (vi) *Kalithogai*
 (vii) *Akanaanuru* (viii) *Puranaanuru*

22. Write a note on ptolemy's Geography.

- Ans:** Ptolemy's Geography is a gazetteer and atlas of Roman times providing geographical details of the Roman Empire in the second century AD (CE).

vi. answer the following in detail:

1. What information do the archaeologists give regarding the material culture and coins of the sangam age?

Ans: (a) Material culture

- (i) Archaeologists have found evidence of brick structures and industrial activities, as well as, artefacts such as beads, bangles, cameos, intaglios and other materials at these sites.
 (ii) Tamil Brahmi inscriptions on pottery and coins have also been unearthed.
 (iii) Evidences of the various arts, crafts and industries together help us to reconstruct the ways of life the people of those times.
 (iv) We can also understand how they might have lived.
 (v) Cameo was an ornament made in precious stone where images are carved on the surface.
 (vi) Intaglio was an ornament in which images were carved as recess, below the surface.

(b) Coins

- (i) Coins as medium of exchange were introduced for the first time during the sangam age.
 (ii) The coins of the Cheras, the Cholas and the Pandyas, punch marked coins and roman coins form another important source of evidence from the Sangam Age.
 (iii) Punch marked coins have been found at Kodumanal and Bodinayakkanur.
 (iv) Roman coins are concentrated in the Coimbatore region.
 (v) These coins are found in Azhagankulam, Karur and Madurai.
 (vi) They were used as Bullion for their metal value and as ornaments.
 (vii) Bullion means precious metal available in the form of ingots.
 (viii) Punch-marked coins are the earliest coins used in India.
 (ix) They were mostly made of silver and have numerous symbols punched on them.

2. Can we say sangam age a golden age? Why?

- Ans:** (i) Sangam age in Tamil Nadu witnessed prosperity in all spheres of life.
 (ii) There was a well organised society.
 (iii) Agriculture, pearl fishing and weaving were some of the important occupations of the people.



- (iv) Fine arts like music, dance, drama and painting flourished.
- (v) The women of the Sangam age enjoyed respectable position.
- (vi) They developed internal and overseas trade.
- (vii) The ancient Tamils were religious minded.
- (viii) The Sangam monarchs gave importance to justice.
- (ix) Sangam literature is the reflection of the Tamil life and a store house of the noble human thoughts, which are the source of inspiration for the medieval and modern poets.
- (x) Hence the Sangam age or Era can be styled as the golden age of Tamil History.

3. What are the Non-Tamil sources that help us to know Tamil society? explain.

- Ans:**
- (i) Non-Tamil literary sources also provide information on early Tamil society. The presence of these non-Tamil sources reveals the extensive contacts and interactions of the early Tamil society with the outside world.
 - (ii) **arthasastra:** Arthasastra, the classic work on economy and statecraft authored by Kautilya during the Mauryan period, refers to Pandya kavataka. It may mean the pearl and shells from the Pandyan country.
 - (iii) **Mahavamsa:** Mahavamsa, the Sri Lankan Buddhist chronicle, composed in the Pali language, mentions merchants and horse traders from Tamil Nadu and South India.
 - (iv) **periplus of erythrean sea:** It is an ancient Greek text whose author is unknown. Erythrean Sea refers to the waters around the Red Sea. It makes references to the Sangam Age ports of Muciri, Thondi, Korkai and Kumari, as well as the Cheras and the Pandyas.
 - (v) **pliny's Natural history:** Pliny the Elder, was a Roman who wrote Natural History. Written in Latin, it is a text on the natural wealth of the Roman Empire. Pliny speaks about the pepper trade with India. He also mentions that the Pandyas of Madurai controlled the port of Bacare on the Kerala coast.
 - (vi) **ptolemy's Geography:** Ptolemy's Geography is a gazetteer and atlas of Roman times providing geographical details of the Roman Empire in the second century AD (CE). Kaveripoompattinam (Khaberi's Emporium), Korkai (Kolko), Kanniyakumari (Komaria), and Muciri (Muziris) are some of the places mentioned in his Geography.
 - (vii) **peutingerian table:** Peutingerian table is an illustrated map of the Roman roads. It shows the areas of ancient Tamilagam and the port of Muziris.
 - (viii) **vienna papyrus:** Vienna papyrus, a Greek document datable to the second century AD (CE), mentions Muciri's trade of olden days. It contains a written agreement between traders and mentions the name of a ship.

UNIT TEST

Time : 40 Minutes

Marks: 25

i. Choose the Correct answer:

4 × 1 = 4

1. The notable Chola king credited with bringing forest lands under the plough and developing irrigational facilities.
 - (a) Karikalan (b) Raja rajan I (c) Kulothungan (d) Rajendran I
2. inscription that mentions the Cheras
 - (a) Pugalur (b) Girnar (c) Pulimankombai (d) Madurai
3. epigraphy is the study of
 - (a) Inscriptions (b) Stones (c) Excavations (d) Paintings



4. (i) Coins as a medium of exchange were introduced for the first time in the Sangam Age.
 (ii) Prakrit was the language used by the common people in Northern India during the Mauryan period.
 (iii) Vienna Papyrus, a Roman document, mentions trade related to Muziri.
 (iv) The concept of Thinaï is presented in the Tamil grammar work of Pathupattu.
 (a) (i) is correct (b) (ii) is correct
 (c) (i) and (ii) is correct (d) (iii) and (iv) is correct

ii. Fill in the Blanks:

4 × 1 = 4

1. _____ the classic work on economy and statecraft authored by Kautilya during the Mauryan period.
 2. _____ are documents scripted on stones, copper plates, coins and rings
 3. _____ is a poetic theme which means a class or category and refers to a habitat or eco-zone with specific physiographical characteristics.
 4. _____ referred to the Westerners, including the Greeks, Romans and West Asian people.

iii. Find out the correct statements:

4 × 1 = 4

1. (a) The Cheras ruled over Kaveri delta and their capital was Uraiyur.
 (b) The Maangulam Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions mention the King Karikalan.
 (c) The terms Vanikan and Nigama appear in Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions were different types of merchants.
 (d) Salt merchants were called Vanikars and they travelled in bullock carts along with their family.

iv. Match the Following:

4 × 1 = 4

1. Epigraphy - (i) a narrative text presenting the important historical events
 2. Chronicle - (ii) an ornament made in precious stone.
 3. Pastoralism - (iii) the study of inscriptions
 4. Cameo - (iv) nomadic people earning livelihood by rearing cattle.

V. Answer the Following questions briefly:

2 × 2 = 4

1. Archaeological sites provide evidence of past history. Discuss.
 2. Overseas interactions brought glory to ancient Tamilagam. Give examples in support.

vi. answer the following in detail:

1 × 5 = 5

1. To what extent do you think the political powers of Tamilagam influenced Sangam Age polity?

Answer Key

- i. 1. (a) Karikalan 2. (a) Pugalur 3. (a) Inscriptions
 4. (b) (ii) is correct
 ii. 1. Arthasastra 2. Inscriptions 3. Thinaï 4. Yavanar
 iii. 1. Refer Sura's Guide Evaluation, Q.No.III - 2.
 iv. 1 - (iii) 2 - (i), 3 - (iv), 4 - (ii)
 v. 1. Refer Sura's Guide Evaluation Q.No.V - 1.
 2. Refer Sura's Guide Evaluation Q.No. V - 4.
 vi. 1. Refer Sura's Guide Evaluation Q.No. VI - 1.