ANCIENT HISTORY OF INDIA – MCQ BOOKLET

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1. Stone Age

Geographical and Climatic Context of Stone Age India

1. Earliest fossil remains of archaic Homo sapiens has been found in

A. Siwalik hills
B. Narmada valley
C. Nallamalai hills
D. Chotanagpur Plateau

Ans: B

WBPSC CS Prelims-2022

In 1982, a fossilized skull cap, known as 'Narmada Man', was discovered at Hatnora in the Narmada valley, Madhya Pradesh. This fossil is attributed to an early human species, often classified as Homo erectus or Homo heidelbergensis (which some consider archaic Homo sapiens).

2. In which era of the Geological time scale did the humans' appear?

A. Palaeozoic
B. Pre-Cambrian
C. Cenozoic
D. Mesozoic

Ans: C

Assistant Conservator of Forest Exam -2019

This question relates to the geological timescale and the evolutionary history of life on Earth, specifically the period when human ancestors emerged.

3. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) found an ancient camping site used by pre-historic man, at an altitude of 4,200 metres in Nubra Valley of Ladakh in the Indian state of A) Haryana B) Jammu & Kashmir C) Himachal Pradesh D) Punjab

A. Haryana
B. Jammu & Kashmir
C. Himachal Pradesh
D. Punjab

Ans: B

Horticulture Development Officer(HDO) -2018

Nubra Valley is a part of the Ladakh region, which was then a district within the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

Lower Palaeolithic Cultures: Core tools, key sites (e.g., Soan, Acheulian)

4. Consider the following statements with reference to Paleolithic tools:

- **1. Isampur was a well-known center of stone tool manufacture located in Gulbarga district of Karnataka and was situated along a small seasonal stream known as Kamta Halla.**
- **2. A Paleolithic blade is a flake tool, the length of which is more than twice its width.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: C

UPSC CDS-2-2023

Statement 1 is correct: Isampur in Gulbarga (now Kalaburagi) district of Karnataka is a well-known Lower Palaeolithic site where extensive evidence of stone tool manufacturing has been found, particularly Acheulean tools. It is located near the Hunsgi valley, along the Kamta Halla stream. Statement 2 is correct: In archaeology, a blade is defined as a flake tool whose length is equal to or exceeds twice its width. This definition applies to Paleolithic blades, which are often associated with the Middle and especially Upper Paleolithic periods.

5. Match List-I with List-II and choose the correct answer using the code given below the lists –

List – I (Archaeological site)	List – II (Present location)
(A) Nevasa	(1) Rajasthan
(B) Isampur	(2) Tamil Nadu
(C) Didwana	(3) Maharashtra
(D) Gudiyam cave	(4) Karnataka

Code -

A. A-(3), B-(2), C-(4), D-(1)
B. A-(4), B-(3), C-(1), D-(2)
C. A-(3), B-(4), C-(1), D-(2)
D. A-(3), B-(4), C-(2), D-(1)

Ans: C

UPPCS Prelims-2023

- Nevasa is an important prehistoric site located on the Pravara River in Maharashtra. - Isampur is a significant Acheulean site located in the Hunsgi valley in Karnataka. - Didwana is a major Paleolithic site in the Thar Desert region of Rajasthan. - Gudiyam cave is a Paleolithic archaeological site located near Chennai in Tamil Nadu.

6. Which statement is incorrect regarding Palaeolithic tools? (1) Cleaver is a tool of this period (2) The tools of this period are found in areas with Brown – red soil (3) These tools were made by Quartzite (4) Early Palaeolithic tools are core tool (5) Question not attempted

A. Cleaver is a tool of this period
B. The tools of this period are found in areas with Brown – red soil
C. These tools were made by Quartzite
D. Early Palaeolithic tools are core tool

Ans: B

Archaeology and Museums Dept. Exam 2023 (Exploration and Excavation Officer)-2023

Understanding the geological and environmental contexts of early human tool manufacturing and use is important. Palaeolithic tools are associated with specific geological formations and raw materials, not typically with specific soil colors like brown-red soil as a defining characteristic.

7. The Chopper-Chopping Pebble Culture is associated with which of the following period? - Question not attempted

A. Neolithic age
B. Middle Palaeolithic age
C. Upper Palaeolithic age
D. Lower Palaeolithic age

Ans: C

Archaeology and Museums Dept. Exam 2023 (Exploration and Excavation Officer)-2023

The Chopper-Chopping Pebble Culture is associated with the Upper Palaeolithic age, signifying advancements in lithic technology.

8. Which stone was used in making tools in Lower Palaeolithic Period? - Question not attempted

A. Quartzite
B. Jasper
C. Sandstone
D. Chert

Ans: A

Archaeology and Museums Dept. Exam 2023 (Exploration and Excavation Officer)-2023

The Lower Palaeolithic Period is characterized by the use of simple stone tools, often made from readily available hard stones. Quartzite, due to its hardness and ease of flaking, was a preferred material for crafting handaxes, choppers, and cleavers.

9. Which among the following lower paleolithic site is not situated in Rajasthan ? - Question not attempted

A. Didwana
B. Jayal
C. Singhitalav
D. Lalitpur

Ans: D

Asst. Engineer Comb. Comp. Exam (Pre) -2024

This question tests knowledge of prehistoric archaeological sites and their geographical locations, specifically focusing on the Lower Paleolithic period in Rajasthan.

Major Neolithic Sites and Cultures (e.g., Mehrgarh, Burzahom, Chirand, Sanganakallu)

10. Consider the following pairs: (Historical place) : (Well-known for)

1. Burzahom : Rock-cut shrines
2. Chandra-ketugarh : Terracotta art
3. Ganeshwar : Copper artefacts

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2
C. 3 only
D. 2 and 3

Ans: D

UPSC IAS-2021

Burzahom is a Neolithic site known for pit dwellings and burial practices, not rock-cut shrines. Chandra-ketugarh is an archaeological site in West Bengal famous for its rich findings of terracotta art from ancient periods. Ganeshwar is a Chalcolithic site in Rajasthan known for its extensive copper mines and numerous copper artefacts, suggesting it was a major source of copper for the Indus Valley Civilization.

11. Which one among the following is a Neolithic site?

A. Adichanallur
B. Hallur
C. Brahmagiri
D. Kurnool

Ans: B

UPSC CBI DSP LDCE-2023

Hallur, located in Karnataka, is a key site for understanding the South Indian Neolithic and transition to the Iron Age. Archaeological excavations at Hallur have revealed evidence of Neolithic settlements, including pottery, tools, and agricultural practices. Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu) is predominantly an Iron Age burial site. Brahmagiri (Karnataka) is also a multi-period site with evidence from the Neolithic-Chalcolithic and Iron

Age, making it a valid Neolithic site as well. Kurnool district (Andhra Pradesh) is famous for prehistoric cave sites yielding rich evidence of Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods, not primarily known as a major Neolithic site. Given the options and the typical emphasis in studies, Hallur is strongly associated with the Neolithic period in South India.

12. In ancient India, Mehrgarh was a

A. neolithic site in the Bolan Valley
B. graveyard of the Delhi Sultans
C. kingdom in the Deccan area
D. fort in Rajasthan

Ans: A

UPSC CISF-AC-EXE-2017

Mehrgarh is one of the most important Neolithic sites in archaeology. It is located in the Bolan Valley in the Balochistan province of Pakistan, near the Indus plains. The site provides evidence of early farming (wheat and barley) and herding (cattle, sheep, and goats) dating back to around 7000 BCE. It represents one of the earliest known farming villages in South Asia.

13. The evidence of pit dwelling has been obtained from

A. Burzahom
B. Koldihwa
C. Brahmagiri
D. Sangankallu

Ans: A

UPPSC Upper Mains-2011

Burzahom is a significant Neolithic archaeological site located in the Kashmir Valley. Excavations at Burzahom have provided clear evidence of pit dwellings, which were houses dug into the ground, representing a characteristic feature of the early inhabitants of this site.

14. Navdatoli is situated in the State of

A. Gujarat
B. Maharashtra
C. Chhattisgarh
D. Madhya Pradesh

Ans: D

UPPSC Upper Mains-2009

- The site of Navdatoli is situated on the south bank of the Narmada river, near Maheshwar in the Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh. - Excavations at Navdatoli have revealed extensive evidence of a Chalcolithic village, part of the Malwa culture, dating back to the 2nd millennium BCE.

15. Ash mound is associated with the Neolithic site at

A. Budihal
B. Sangan Kaliu
C. Koidihvva
D. Brahmgiri

Ans: B

UPPSC Upper Mains-2009

- Ash mounds are characteristic of South Indian Neolithic sites. - They are thought to be related to cattle penning and ritual activities. - Sanganakallu is a prominent example of a site with ash mounds.

16. Which archaeological site is also known as Dhoolkot ?

A. Namana
B. Bagor
C. Ahar
D. Nagda

Ans: C

Asst. Statistical Officer 2

Ahar is an archaeological site in Rajasthan that is also referred to as Dhoolkot.

17. The Sanganakallu excavation site is in which State of India?

A. Andhra Pradesh
B. Karnataka
C. Odisha

D. Maharashtra

Ans: B

Assistant Auditor (Direct) -2021

Sanganakallu is an archaeological excavation site in Karnataka, providing insights into ancient Indian cultures.

18. The archaeological site "Senuaar" represents which culture?

A. Neolithic age
B. Palaeolithic period
C. Megalithic culture
D. Neolithic and chalcolithic age

Ans: D

lower devision clerk -2025

Archaeological sites often reveal a continuity or transition of cultures, with evidence of different technological phases existing in the same location over time.

Major Palaeolithic Sites in India (e.g., Bhimbetka, Hunsgi, Kurnool Caves)

19. Bhimbetka was discovered by

A. Dr. H. D. Sankhalia
B. Dr. Shyam Sundar Nigam
C. Dr. Vishnudhar Vakankar
D. Dr. Rajbali Pandey

Ans: C

MPPSC CS Prelims-2020

Dr. V. S. Vakankar, an eminent archaeologist, discovered the Bhimbetka rock shelters in 1957-58 while travelling by train and noticing the rock formations similar to those he had seen in Spain.

20. Which of the following Indian Archaeologists first visited 'Bhimbetka Caves' and discovered prehistoric significance of its rock paintings?

A. Madho Swaroop Vatsa
B. H.D. Sankalia
C. V.S. Wakankar
D. V.N. Mishra

Ans: C

UPPCS Prelims-2020

Dr. V.S. Wakankar (Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar) was the Indian archaeologist who first visited the Bhimbetka rock shelters in 1957-58 and recognized their immense prehistoric significance due to the presence of numerous rock paintings. His subsequent extensive exploration brought these sites to international attention.

21. When did Dr. Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar discover the rock shelters of Bhimbetka ?

A. 1951 – 1952
B. 1954 – 1955
C. 1960 – 1961
D. 1957 – 1958

Ans: D

MPPSC CS Prelims-2025 **mppsc 2025-2025**

- Dr. V.S. Wakankar, a renowned archaeologist, accidentally discovered the Bhimbetka rock shelters while travelling by train and observing rock formations similar to those in Spain and France. - His systematic exploration efforts led to the discovery of these numerous rock shelters and paintings between 1957 and 1958.

22. Palaeolithic tools have been recovered from which site of Rajasthan ?

A. Bagor
B. Ahar
C. Bhangarh
D. Kalibangan

Ans: A

Agri. Officer -2020

Bagor is a major Mesolithic and Paleolithic site in Rajasthan, yielding evidence of early human activity.