# WORLD HISTORY – MCQ BOOKLET

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## 1. Prehistoric Societies and Early Human Civilization

### Ancient Egyptian Civilization: Dynastic Rule, Religion, and Monumental Architecture

**1. The great museum (Mouseion) at Alexandria founded by Ptolemy I Soter early in the 3rd Century BCE was situated in - - (5) Question not attempted**

**A.** (1) France
**B.** (2) Italy
**C.** (3) Egypt
**D.** (4) Greece

**Ans: C**

**Archaeology and Museums Dept. Exam 2023 (Curator)-2023**

The Mouseion of Alexandria was an ancient institution, a centre of learning and scholarship, not a museum in the modern sense, although it housed collections. It was part of the larger Ptolemaic Kingdom, which was based in Egypt. It is considered a precursor to modern universities and research institutions.

**2. The 'Sphinx' is associated with**

**A.** Mughal Civilization
**B.** Chinese Civilization
**C.** Roman Civilization
**D.** Egyptian Civilization

**Ans: D**

**TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICER(TIO) -2017**

The Sphinx is an iconic representation of ancient Egyptian culture, mythology, and architectural prowess.

### Chalcolithic Cultures: Copper Usage and Village Societies

**3. Archaeologists have recently discovered a 7000-year-old prehistoric settlement in which one of the following countries ?**

**A.** Serbia
**B.** Bulgaria
**C.** Romania
**D.** Finland

Ans: A

UPSC Combined Section Officer-2024

- A 7,000-year-old prehistoric settlement was discovered in Serbia. - The discovery is linked to the Vinca culture.

**4. The first metal used by man was:**

**A.** Iron
**B.** Copper
**C.** Gold
**D.** Bronze

Ans: B

APPSC Draughtman-2008

Archaeological evidence suggests that copper was one of the first metals used by humans because it could be found in relatively pure, native form and was malleable enough to be shaped with simple tools before smelting techniques were developed.

## Early Chinese Civilizations: Shang and Zhou Dynasties

**5. The manufacture of real paper in china can be creadited to:**

**A.** Tsai Lun
**B.** Wa wang
**C.** Chin
**D.** Kung tzu

Ans: A

RPSC RAS Prelims-1995

Cai Lun (also romanized as Tsai Lun) was a Han Dynasty Chinese eunuch who is traditionally credited as the inventor of paper and the papermaking process in 105 AD.

**6. Great Wall of China was built as protection against the**

**A.** Huns
**B.** Vandals
**C.** Kouei
**D.** Muslims

Ans: A

TRAINED GRADUATE TEACHER (TGT) -2018

The Great Wall of China was constructed to protect against invasions from nomadic peoples of the north, particularly the Huns.

## Emergence of Early River Valley Civilizations: General Characteristics

**7. Which are the main cradles of civilizations which have shaped the destinies of mankind?**

- **1. China**
- **2. Indian Sub-continent**
- **3. The Fertile Crescent (Egypt and Mesopotamia)**
- **4. The Mediterranean (Greece and Rome)**

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

**A.** 1, 2 and 3 only
**B.** 2 only
**C.** 2 and 3 only
**D.** All of the above

Ans: D

GPSC Prelims CSP-1-2023

The listed regions are universally recognized as areas where significant advancements in human organization, technology, culture, and governance occurred, impacting global history. The Fertile Crescent (Mesopotamia and Egypt), the Indus Valley in the Indian Sub-continent, and early China are considered primary cradles where civilization arose independently. The civilizations of the Mediterranean (Greece and Rome), while perhaps not as early as the others, represent monumental phases in the development of human thought, politics, and culture that have had a lasting impact.

**8. Most of the early civilizations evolved in**

**A.** coastal regions
**B.** mountainous regions
**C.** river valleys
**D.** deserts

Ans: C

Agricultural Development Officer, Agriculture Department

River valleys provided the necessary conditions for the development of early civilizations due to water, fertile soil, and transportation.

## Indus Valley Civilization: Urban Planning, Trade, and Unique Features

**9. The cylindrical stone seals were used in which civilization ?**

**A.** Harappan
**B.** Egyptian
**C.** Roman
**D.** Mesopotamian

Ans: D

UPSC NDA-2-2016

Mesopotamian cylindrical seals are famous for their intricate carvings and their method of use (rolling). They served as personal identifiers and administrative tools.

## Mesopotamian Civilizations: Sumer, Akkad, Babylon, and Assyria

**10. There is similarity in AVESTA RIGVEDA. To which region Avesta belongs ?**

**A.** India
**B.** Iran
**C.** Israel
**D.** Egypt

Ans: B

UPPCS Prelims-2008

Linguistic evidence (Old Avestan vs. Vedic Sanskrit) and parallels in deities and concepts demonstrate a close relationship between the early religious traditions of Iran and India, suggesting a common origin.

**11. City life began in Mesopotamia. The land lies between two rivers. The rivers are**

**A.** Euphrates and Tigris
**B.** Tigris and Barrage de Samarra
**C.** Barrage de Samarra and Barrage de Kut
**D.** Euphrates and Barrage de Kut

Ans: A

GS CompApp RA 09 2024 1009-2024

The fertile land between these two major rivers provided the resources necessary for agriculture and the development of settled communities, leading to the rise of urban centers.

## Neolithic Revolution: Origins of Agriculture, Animal Domestication, and Early Settlements

**12. During 10000 BC, the population of the world was**

**A.** 2 million
**B.** 3 million
**C.** 4 million
**D.** 5 million

Ans: C

BPSC Prelims Exam-63rd

- Before the development of agriculture, human populations were small and scattered, relying on hunting and gathering. - The advent of settled agriculture allowed for increased food production and denser populations, leading to gradual growth from this relatively low baseline.

## Origin of Humans and Early Hominids

**13. Which of the following branch deals with the reconstruction of the history of the earth? - (5) Question not attempted**

**A.** Palaeontology
**B.** Stratigraphy
**C.** Palaeobotany
**D.** Palynology

Ans: B

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

Stratigraphy is the branch of geology that deals with the study of rock layers (strata) and layering (stratification). By analyzing the sequence and composi-

tion of these layers, geologists can reconstruct the Earth's history, including past environments, geological events, and the evolution of life.

**14. Select the correct sequence of the geographical Periods/Era using the codes given below : - (A) Triassic $\rightarrow$ Jurassic $\rightarrow$ Cretaceous - (B) Paleozoic $\rightarrow$ Mesozoic $\rightarrow$ Cenozoic - (C) Devonian $\rightarrow$ Silurian $\rightarrow$ Carboniferous Codes :**

**A.** (1) (A) and (B)
**B.** (3) Only (C)
**C.** (2) Only (B)
**D.** (4) (A), (B) and (C)

**Ans: D**

**School Lecturer (Sanskrit Edu.) -2018**

(A) Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous are all periods within the Mesozoic Era, and they are listed in their correct chronological order. (B) Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic are the three main eras of geological time, and they are listed in their correct chronological order. (C) Devonian, Silurian, and Carboniferous are all periods within the Paleozoic Era, and they are listed in their correct chronological order.

**15. Who was the Greek philosopher to be sentenced to death by poisoning?**

**A.** Homer
**B.** Socrates
**C.** Aristotle
**D.** Plato

**Ans: B**

**LAW OFFICER CUM JUNIOR DRAFTSMAN -2018**

Socrates' execution is a significant event in the history of philosophy, often seen as a martyrdom for his intellectual pursuits and questioning of authority.

## Palaeolithic Age: Hunter-Gatherer Societies, Stone Tools, and Cave Art

**16. Which one of the following tribes use 'Iglu' for shelter ?**

**A.** Eskimos
**B.** Masai
**C.** Bushman
**D.** Pigmy

**Ans: A**

**Group C Exam -2011**

An igloo is a temporary or permanent shelter constructed from snow. It is particularly effective in cold climates as snow is an excellent insulator, trapping body heat and keeping the interior relatively warm.

**17. Vedda tribe is found in _____ .**

**A.** Thailand
**B.** New Zealand
**C.** Tasman
**D.** Sri Lanka

**Ans: D**

**Jail Warders Exam -2022**

The Vedda tribe is indigenous to Sri Lanka.

## Social Stratification, Governance, and Religious Beliefs in Early Civilized Societies

**18. Who is the most powerful God in the Greek pantheon?**

**A.** Zeus
**B.** Apollo
**C.** Kratos
**D.** Junas

**Ans: A**

**LAW OFFICER CUM JUNIOR DRAFTSMAN -2018**

Zeus's dominance is often depicted through his thunderbolt and his role in maintaining order in the cosmos.

### Technological Advancements (e.g., irrigation, wheel, writing systems) in Early Civilizations

**19. Tin famous book " 1'he Alphabet" was written by**

**A.** Buhler
**B.** David Diringer
**C.** G.S Ojlia
**D.** Sir William .Ions

**Ans: B**

UPPSC Upper Mains-2009

- David Diringer was an Italian-born British scholar specializing in the history of writing systems. - His book "The Alphabet" is a comprehensive study of scripts globally.

### Trade Networks and Cultural Exchange in the Ancient World

**20. _____ is known as 'The Father of History'.**

**A.** Nearchus
**B.** Herodotus
**C.** Megasthenes
**D.** Von Ranke

**Ans: B**

WBCS_Main-Paper-4-2021

This title was given to him by the Roman orator Cicero for his monumental work "The Histories," which documented the Greco-Persian Wars.

**21. The Parthians originated from which of the following countries?**

**A.** Afghanistan
**B.** Iraq
**C.** Iran
**D.** Turkmenistan

**Ans: C**

Agriculture Development Officer -2021

The Parthians originated from the region of ancient Persia, which is modern-day Iran.

**22. Which of the following Greek historians has been called the 'Father of History'?**

**A.** Nearchus
**B.** Herodotus
**C.** Aristobulus
**D.** Megasthenes

**Ans: B**

Civil Judge -2018

Herodotus, a Greek historian, is credited with being the 'Father of History' due to his pioneering systematic historical research in his book "The Histories."

**23. Which numeral does "Alpha" in Greek numeral system stand for?**

**A.** 0
**B.** 1
**C.** 2
**D.** None of these

**Ans: D**

LAW OFFICER CUM JUNIOR DRAFTSMAN -2018

The Greek numeral system, also known as the Milesian system or Ionian system, used letters of the Greek alphabet to represent numbers. Each letter was assigned a numerical value.

## 2. Byzantine Empire and Eastern Roman Empire

## The Reign of Justinian I: Codification of Law (Corpus Juris Civilis), Reconquests, Hagia Sophia

**1. The greatest Contribution to eastern roman emperor Justinian was in the field of:**

**A.** Law
**B.** Architecture
**C.** Science
**D.** Litrature

**Ans: A**

**RPSC RAS Prelims-1995**

Emperor Justinian I (reigned 527–565 AD) is most renowned for his comprehensive codification and reform of Roman law.

## Transition from Roman to Byzantine Empire: Foundation and Early History

**2. Which of the following statements about the usage of the term 'barbarian' is/are correct?**

- **1. It is derived from the Greek word 'barbaros' which means a non-Greek.**
- **2. Romans used the term for the Germanic tribes, the Gauls and the Huns.**

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

**Ans: C**

**UPSC CDS-1-2018**

Statement 1 is correct: The term 'barbarian' is derived from the ancient Greek word 'barbaros', which was originally used to describe non-Greek speakers, implying their language sounded like meaningless babbling ("bar bar"). Statement 2 is correct: The Romans adopted the Greek term 'barbaros' (as 'barbarus') and applied it to peoples outside the Greco-Roman world and empire, including various tribes like the Germanic tribes, Gauls, and Huns.

**3. Name of the riverside city of the river 'Tiber' is**

**A.** Rome, Italy
**B.** New York, USA
**C.** Moscow, Russia
**D.** None of the above

**Ans: A**

**District Library and Information Officer(DLIO) -2018**

The River Tiber is an Italian river that flows through the city of Rome, making Rome a prominent riverside city on the Tiber.

**4. Which civilization was developed on the bank of Tiber?**

**A.** Celtic
**B.** Tiber
**C.** Roman
**D.** Sumerian

**Ans: C**

**Field Investigator -2020**

This question tests knowledge of ancient civilizations and their geographical locations. It specifically relates to the origins of one of the most influential ancient civilizations.

**5. Rome is known as**

**A.** The City of Churches
**B.** The City of Seven Hills
**C.** The Windy City
**D.** The City of Palaces

**Ans: B**

**TRAINED GRADUATE TEACHER (TGT) -2018**

Rome's historical and geographical identity is strongly tied to its location on seven prominent hills.

**6. Colosseum is a famous site located at**

**A.** Rome
**B.** Paris

**C.** London
**D.** Vatican City

**Ans: A**

misc 2014 general studies arithmetic-2014

The Colosseum is located in Rome.

## 3. Medieval Africa and the Americas

### Art, Architecture, and Religious Beliefs: Key features and expressions across major African and American civilizations.

**1. The first Olympic Games were held in which year?**

**A.** 766 BC
**B.** 676 BC
**C.** 776 BC
**D.** 667 BC

**Ans: C**

JPSC CS Prelims-2011

The first recorded Olympic Games were held in Olympia, Greece, in the year 776 BC. These ancient games were religious festivals held in honour of the god Zeus.

**2. Angkor Vat Vishnu Temple is located in :**

**A.** India.
**B.** Sri Lanka
**C.** Cambodia
**D.** Japan

**Ans: C**

UPPCS Prelims-1995

Angkor Wat, a massive temple complex, is located in Cambodia.

**3. Who was the first king of rome:**

**A.** Numitor
**B.** Remus
**C.** Romulus
**D.** Hamilcar Barca

**Ans: C**

RPSC RAS Prelims-1995

According to traditional Roman legend, Romulus was the co-founder of Rome with his twin brother Remus, and subsequently became its first king after killing Remus in a dispute over the city's location or walls.

**4. In which period Shailendra dynasty established its empire in Sumatra, Java etc. –**

**A.** $5^{th}$ century A.D.
**B.** $6^{th}$ century A.D.
**C.** $7^{th}$ century A.D.
**D.** $8^{th}$ century A.D.

**Ans: C**

School Lecturer (Sanskrit Edu.) -2018

The Shailendra dynasty, a prominent maritime power, rose to prominence in Southeast Asia around the 7th and 8th centuries AD. They established a vast empire that included parts of Java, Sumatra, and the Malay Peninsula, and were significant patrons of Buddhism.

**5. The 'Angkorwat temple' of Kambuj is a memorial to the fame of which ruler ?**

**A.** Suryavarman I
**B.** Suryavarman II
**C.** Indravaman
**D.** Yashovarman

**Ans: B**

School Lecturer (Sanskrit Edu.) -2020

Angkor Wat is the largest religious monument in the world and a prime example of Khmer architecture.

Initially a Hindu temple, it later transformed into a Buddhist temple.

**6. The world famous Myson temple complex is the legacy of which ancient kingdom in South-East Asia? (1) Champa (2) Srivijaya (3) Mataram (4) Funan**

**A.** (1) Champa
**B.** (2) Srivijaya
**C.** (3) Mataram
**D.** (4) Funan

**Ans: A**

**School Lecturer (School Edu.) 2018 3-2018**

The My Son sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage site, represents the architectural and artistic achievements of the Champa civilization in Southeast Asia.

**7. The famous Mongol military leader, who was the founder of the Yuan Dynasty in China and the grandson of Genghis Khan, was**

**A.** Hulagu
**B.** Qubilai Khan
**C.** Tamerlane
**D.** Timur

**Ans: B**

**ae -2024**

The Yuan Dynasty was established in China by the Mongols. Qubilai Khan, a grandson of Genghis Khan, was its founder and first emperor. This marked a significant period of Mongol rule in China.

**8. Angkor Wat, one of the most famous sacred temples is in which country?**

**A.** Cambodia
**B.** Nepal
**C.** Philippines
**D.** Indonesia

**Ans: A**

**ASCO -2014**

**HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT OF-FICER(HDO) -2015**

Angkor Wat is located in Cambodia.

**9. Angkor Wat, one of the most famous sacred temples is in which country? - [A] Cambodia - [B] Nepal - [C] Philippines - [D] Indonesia**

**A.** Cambodia
**B.** Nepal
**C.** Philippines
**D.** Indonesia

**Ans: A**

**HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT OF-FICER(HDO) -2015**

Angkor Wat is a symbol of Cambodia and a UN-ESCO World Heritage Site, attracting millions of tourists annually. Its architectural grandeur reflects the peak of Khmer architecture.

**10. Angkor Wat, one of the most famous sacred temples is in which country?**

**A.** Cambodia
**B.** Nepal
**C.** Philippines
**D.** Indonesia

**Ans: A**

**POST GRADUATE TEACHER (PGT) -2018**

Angkor Wat is a national symbol of Cambodia and is depicted on its national flag.

**11. Match the following famous archaeological sites in List—I with their countries in List—II in which they are situated : List—I | List—II ---|--- a. Machu Picchu | 1. Jordan b. Petra | 2. Peru c. Angkor vats | 3. Turkey d. Göbekli Tepe | 4. Kampuchea Select the correct match from the codes given below.**

**A.** a-4, b-3, c-1, d-2
**B.** a-2, b-1, c-4, d-3
**C.** a-3, b-2, c-1, d-4

**D.** a-1, b-4, c-3, d-2

**Ans: B**

GS Asst Architect PWD 02 -2025

GS Asst Architect PWD 02 -2025

- Machu Picchu An ancient Inca citadel located in the Cusco Region of Peru, on the eastern slope of the Andes Mountains. - Petra A historic and archaeological city in southern Jordan, famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system. - Angkor Wat A temple complex in Cambodia, originally built as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu, and later transformed into a Buddhist temple. Kampuchea is the former name of Cambodia. - Göbekli Tepe A Neolithic archaeological site in the Southeastern Anatolia Region of Turkey, considered one of the oldest known megalithic structures.

**12. Match the following famous archaeological sites in List—I with the countries in List—II in which they are situated : List—I List—II a. Machu Picchu 1. Jordan b. Petra 2. Peru c. Angkor vats 3. Turkey d. Göbekli Tepe 4. Kampuchea Select the correct match from the codes given below.**

**A.** a b c d
4 3 1 2

**B.** a b c d
2 1 4 3

**C.** a b c d
3 2 1 4

**D.** a b c d
1 4 3 2

**Ans: B**

GS Asst Architect PWD 02 -2025

GS Asst Architect PWD 02 -2025

Machu Picchu is in Peru, Petra is in Jordan, Angkor Wat is in Kampuchea (Cambodia), and Göbekli Tepe is in Turkey.

**13. Match the following famous archaeological sites in List—I with the countries in List—II in which they are situated : List—I a. Machu Picchu b. Petra c. Angkor vats d. Göbekli Tepe List—II 1. Jordan 2. Peru 3. Turkey 4. Kampuchea Select the correct match from the codes given below.**

**A.** a b c d 4 3 1 2

**B.** a b c d 2 1 4 3

**C.** a b c d 2 1 3 4

**D.** a b c d 4 3 2 1

**Ans: B**

GS Asst Architect PWD 02 -2025

Machu Picchu is an ancient Inca citadel located in the Andes Mountains of Peru. Petra is an archaeological city in southern Jordan. Angkor Wat is a temple complex in Cambodia (historically referred to as Kampuchea). Göbekli Tepe is a UNESCO World Heritage site in southeastern Turkey, considered one of the oldest known temple complexes.

## Mesoamerican Civilizations: Post-Classic Maya, Aztec Empire (Mexica), their political systems, religion, and agricultural innovations.

**14. What is the correct North-South sequence of the following civilizations ?**

**A.** Maya – Aztec – Muisca – Inca

**B.** Maya – Muisca – Inca – Aztec

**C.** Aztec – Muisca – Maya – Inca

**D.** Aztec – Maya – Muisca – Inca

**Ans: A**

RO ARO pre -2016

Understanding the geographical locations of major ancient civilizations in the Americas is crucial for determining their North-South sequence.

### North American Indigenous Societies: Mississippian Culture (Cahokia) and Ancestral Puebloans, their settlements and societal structures.

**15. Bindibu are natives of**

**A.** Canada
**B.** South America
**C.** North Europe
**D.** Western Australia

**Ans: D**

**Asstt. System Manager -2021**

Bindibu people are indigenous to Western Australia.

### Spread and Impact of Islam in North and West Africa: Cultural, intellectual, and economic transformations.

**16. Medieval traveller and writer Ibn Batuta belonged to which country ?**

**A.** Persia
**B.** Morocco
**C.** Egypt
**D.** Afghanistan

**Ans: B**

**CGPSC Prelims Exam-2019**

Abu Abdullah Muhammad Ibn Battuta (1304–1368 or 1369) was a Moroccan explorer and traveler who is known for his extensive travels documented in his book "Rihla" (meaning 'Journey').

## 4. Renaissance and Humanism in Europe

### Definition and Core Principles of Humanism

**1. Which one of the following statements about Renaissance Humanist culture is NOT true ?**

**A.** It slackened the control of religion over human life
**B.** It believed that human nature was many-sided
**C.** It was concerned with good manners
**D.** It criticized material wealth, power and glory

**Ans: D**

**UPSC NDA-1-2018**

Renaissance Humanism, while emphasizing classical learning and human potential, generally did not criticize material wealth, power, and glory. In fact, many humanists flourished under the patronage of wealthy individuals, powerful rulers, and the Church, who commissioned art, architecture, and scholarly works. The pursuit of excellence and achievement, often leading to wealth and fame, was compatible with humanist ideals. Criticism of excessive materialism existed but was not a defining characteristic of the broader humanist movement, which celebrated human capabilities and achievements in various spheres, including the worldly.

**2. What is the meaning of the term "Humanist" used during the Renaissance in 15th century Europe? 1. It refers to the masters who taught grammar and rhetoric 2. It refers to the masters who taught poetry, history and moral philosophy 3. It refers to the masters who taught subjects that were connected with religion 4. It refers to masters who emphasized skills that were developed through discussion and debate. Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

**A.** 1, 2 and 3
**B.** 1 and 3 only
**C.** 1, 2 and 4
**D.** 2 and 4 only

**Ans: C**

**UPSC CAPF-2016**

- Statement 1: Humanists taught grammar and rhetoric. Correct. These were foundational elements of the studia humanitatis, crucial for effective communication and analysis of classical texts. - Statement 2: Humanists taught poetry, history and moral philosophy. Correct. These subjects, derived from classical Greek and Roman literature, history, and philosophy, were central to the Humanist cur-