

STD VI

SOCIAL STUDY

THE VEDIC AGE(HISTORY)

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:-

Q1. Why is the Vedic age so called?

Ans. In Indian history, the period of 1500 BC to 600 BC is called the Vedic age as most of the information about this period is derived from Vedic literature.

Q2. With which modern Indian states does the region Saptsindhu coincide?

Ans. The region of Saptsindhu coincides with modern day Indian states of Punjab and Haryana.

Q3. What are the main occupations of the Rigvedic Aryans?

Ans. Agriculture , weaving, leather working, pot- making, carpentry and jewellery making were the main occupations of the Rig Vedic Aryans.

Q4. Name some popular pastime of the Vedic people.

Ans. The usual pastime were chariot racing, hunting, gambling, music and dance.

Q5. Mention one way in which the discovery of iron helped the Vedic people.

Ans. The use of iron produced better weapons and heavier agricultural implements like iron ploughs which helped the Vedic people to expand agriculture.

Q6. Where did children receive education in latter Vedic period?

Ans. Girls received education at home while boys spent their student life in a gurukul, where the Guru or teacher lived with his family and pupils. The pupils served the Guru in return for the knowledge they gained.

Q7. What might grave goods tell us about the dead person?

Ans. The grave goods tell us whether \*The dead person was rich or poor.

\*That the Aryans believed in life after death.

Q8. Briefly describe the composition and function of the Sabha and Samiti in the Rig Vedic period.

Ans. The Sabha-

- It was a small committee of selected elders of the village.
- The Sabha helped Rajan, the tribal chief on important matters.

The Samiti-

\*It was the general assembly.

\*The samiti chose the Rajan.

Q9. How did methods of religious worship change from the early Vedic period to later Vedic period?

Ans. The early Vedic period: The Rig Vedic Aryans worshipped various forces of nature represented by Gods like Varun(sky), Agni(fire), Prithvi(Earth), Surya(Sun), Indra(Rain) and Vayu(Wind).

The Later Vedic period: The Gods Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva became important. Prayers were accompanied by elaborate rituals and sacrifices.

Q10. How did the people of Inamgaon dispose of their dead?

Ans. Disposal of the dead in Inamgaon (near Pune in Maharashtra):-

\*Here the dead were buried in pits, dug in the floor of the house itself.

\*Dead adults were usually buried directly in the pits.

\*A dead child was buried in a container placed horizontally mouth to mouth.

\*The dead were usually laid in a north-south position.

\*They were buried with earthen vessels of grains.

Q11. How many castes were there in the early Vedic society? Name them and explain their social functions.

Ans. \*There were four main castes in early Vedic society. \*Actually social divisions were based on occupations but later developed into the hereditary caste system.

\*The four main sections of society from the highest to the lowest were-

\*Brahmin-The priests, who looked after religious matters and recited prayers were called Brahmins.

\*Kshatriya-The king and warriors who protected the tribe from harm were called Kshatriyas. They fought wars.

\*Vaishya-They were mainly farmers, craft men and traders.

\*Shudra-Those who worked for others were shudras.They cleaned the area, skinned dead animals. Dasas and those Aryans who disobeyed social rules were also considered as shudras. They were the lowest caste.

Q12 Compare the position of the king in early Vedic and the later vedic age.

Ans. The position of the king in the early Vedic period-

\*The tribal chief was called a Rajan.

\*He maintained law and order and led his tribe in war.

\*He received a Bali (voluntary donation) for his services.

\* He was selected by the Samiti.

\*The Rajan was assisted by officials and did take advise on important matters with Sabha and Samiti.

The position of the king in the later Vedic period:-

\*The Rajan was now a king.

\*He had a proper army and a Kingdom.

\*He adopted lofty titles like samrat and Maharajadhiraj.

\*The king became more powerful.

\* The position was normally hereditary now.

Q13. Why did the chief priest's power increases as kingdoms grew larger?

Ans. As the kingdoms grew larger and the King became more powerful, the chief priest's position rose as he was the one who performed all the rituals as Ashwamedha Yajna.