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(Compilations of the Multiple Choice Questions)

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The Vedic Age

1. Consider the following pairs:

Veda :: Feature

1. Rig Veda :: Upveda of the Rig Veda is the Gandharva Veda.
2. Sama Veda :: Sets tunes for singing hymns of Rig Veda.
3. Yajur Veda :: Procedure for the performance of sacrifices.
4. Atharva Veda :: The Upveda of the Atharva Veda is the Dhanur Veda.

Which of the above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 1 and 4 only

Answer: B

Explanation

Rig Veda

- Collection of 1,028 hymns, divided into 10 Mandals (books).
- Included by the UNESCO in the list of literature signifying World Human Heritage.
- Priests related to the Rig Veda: Kotri or Motri
- Upveda: Ayurveda.
- Only surviving recension of the Rig Veda is the Shakala shakha.

The Sama Veda

- Collection of verses mostly taken from the Rig Veda, but arranged in a poetic form to facilitate singing.
- Collection of 1,810 melodies, and also contains the famous Dhrupada raga, later sung by Tansen.

Upveda: Gandharva Veda.

- Recensions (Shakhas) of the Sama Veda are Kauthuma, Jaiminiya (Talavakara), and Ranayaniya. Yajur Veda
- Deals with the procedure for the performance of sacrifices.
- contains Kathaka, Maitrayani, Taittiriya, and Kapishthala recensions.
- Upveda: Dhanur Veda.

Atharva Veda

- Collection of magic spells and charms to ward off the evil spirits and diseases.
- It is the last Veda and is considered a non-Aryan work divided into 20 kandas (books), with 711 hymns.
- It contains the Gopatha Brahmana.
- Shaunaka and Paippalada are the recensions of the Atharva Veda.
- Upveda: Shilpa Veda.

2. Consider the following statements with respect to Early Vedic and Later Vedic period.

1. Society was divided in form of varnas during Early Vedic period.
2. Religion during Later Vedic period was priest dominated and mantras orientated.
3. During the Early Vedic Period, women were forced to stay indoors.
4. Agriculture was the main source of income during Later Vedic period.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation

Category	Early Vedic	Later Vedic
Polity	Tribal society	King present
Economy	Pastoral	Agriculture
Society	No division in society	Division in society in form of varnas
Religion	Simple: Worshiped nature: sun, wind, rain & via mantras only	Complex: Priest dominated & ritual orientated.
Tax	Bali (voluntary offering) & not tax	Tax compulsory to be given to king
Women	Strong position & societal participation	Forced to stay indoors.

3. Consider the following terms which were used during Rig Vedic Age.

1. Gavyuti: Lineage Measure of distance
2. Gojit: Hero/Winner
3. Urvara: Cereals Fertile fields
4. Goghna: Guest

Which of the above terms are correctly described?

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

Answer: D

Explanation

Terms	Meaning
Godhuli Samgava	Measure of time (Dusk) Morning
Gavyuti	Measure of distance
Duhitri	Daughter who milk cows
Vap	To sow
Srini	Sickle
Soma/Sura	Intoxicating drink
Ghrita	Butter
Dhanya	Cereals
Gana	Lineage

4. The concept of "Origin of the Universe" is mentioned in which of the following?

- A. Brahmanas
- B. Puranas
- C. Rig Veda D.
- D. Yajur Veda

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Nāsadiya Sūkta also known as the Hymn of Creation, is the 129th hymn of the 10th mandala of the Rigveda .
- It is concerned with cosmology and the origin of the universe.
- Other Important Concepts:
 - ✓ Doctrine of 'Trimurti': Maitrayani Upanishad
 - ✓ Gotra: Atharva Veda
 - ✓ Kshatriyas' precedence over Brahmanas: Atreya Brahamana
 - ✓ Mention of the eastern and western seas: Satpatha Brahmna

5. Consider the following statements with respect to Vedic Literature.

1. Aranyakas deal with mysticism and philosophy and oppose sacrifice.
2. Nirukta Sutra deals with Metrics.
3. Texts related to royal dynasties, both the Suryavanshis and Chandravanshis are mentioned in Vamsha.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Aranyakas

✓ Also called the 'forest books' as they were written mainly by hermits living in the jungles for their pupils.

✓ Deal with mysticism and philosophy and oppose sacrifice.

✓ Emphasise on meditation.

• Sutras

✓ Sutras are very short condensed statements that are used to express varied ideas.

• There are six Sutras.

✓ Shiksha (Phonetics)

✓ Kalpa (Ritualistic science)

✓ Jyotisha (Astronomy)

✓ Vyakaran (Grammar)

✓ Nirukta (Etymology)

✓ Chhanda (Metrics)

• The Puranas generally discuss five topics in the time span of four ages/ yugas (Satya, Treta, Dvapara, and Kali):

✓ Sarga (Deals with the creation of the world) !Pratisarga (Recreation)

✓ Manvantaras (Periods of the various Manus)

✓ Vamsha (Genealogies of the gods and rishis)

✓ Vamshanucharita (Texts relating to royal dynasties, both the Suryavanshis – who claimed their descent from the Sun – and Chandravanshis – who claimed their descent from the Moon).