

## Very Short Answer Questions

**Q.1. Which is the oldest book? When was it written?**

**Ans.** The oldest book known all over the world is supposed to be that of the Vedas. They were written about 3,000 years back and are the earliest literary source available.

**Q.2. Why do historians study the Rigveda?**

**Ans.** Historians study these dialogues to arrive at conclusions. Several animals like horse and cow were worshipped. Many hymns compare horses and cows to rivers. The names of popular rivers like Indus and Sarasvati figure in these hymns.

**Q.3. What does Rigveda tell us about prayers and battles?**

**Ans.** Most prayers in the Rigveda were for cattle, children (especially sons) and horses. Horses were yoked to chariots and used in battles. The battles were aimed to capture cattle, land, pastures, water and people.

**Q.4. Which two words were used to describe people or community?**

**Ans.**

- i. One was the word Jana, which we still use in Hindi and other language.
- ii. The other was Vish. The word Vaishya comes from Vish.

**Q.5. What were common features of burials?**

**Ans.** Generally the dead were buried with distinctive pots, which were called Black and Red Ware. Also found were tools and weapons of iron and sometimes skeletons of horses, horse equipment's and ornaments of stone and gold.

## Short Answer Questions

**Q.1. Describe the occupations of the people in the Vedic Age.**

**Ans.**

- i. Agriculture, cattle rearing, chariot-making, pottery, jewellery-making and metal work were the main occupations.
- ii. Many people also worked as priests who performed rituals and acted as teachers and doctors.
- iii. They passed on the knowledge of Vedas to their children.

**Q.2. How did social differences exist in burials in India?**

**Ans.**

- i. Archaeologists assume that objects discovered with a skeleton, probably belonged to the dead person.
- ii. Sometimes, objects were found in one grave, some in another.
- iii. In Brahmagiri, a skeleton was buried with 33 gold beads, 2 stone beads, 4 copper bangles and one conch shell whereas the other skeleton only had a pot.
- iv. This showed the difference in status amongst the people who were buried.
- v. Some were rich, while others were poor.

**Q.3. Were some burial spots meant only for families?**

**Ans.**

- i. Sometimes, megaliths had more than one skeleton.
- ii. It indicated that people belonging to the same family were buried at the same place though at different times.
- iii. The bodies of dead were brought into the grave, through the portholes.
- iv. Boulders were placed on the surface to serve as signposts to find the burial site, when people of the same family had to be buried there.

## Long Answer Questions

### Q.1. Who were Dasas/Dasyus?

**Ans.**

- i. While Aryans composed the Vedas, there was another group of people who opposed them. They were called Dasas or Dasyus.
- ii. They spoke a different language and followed different customs.
- iii. Most of the dasas were perhaps enslaved and so the term 'dasa' also came to mean "a slave".
- iv. They had to do what their masters wanted to do. The slaves were men and women who were captured during war.

### Q.2. How did special burial take place at Inamgaon?

**Ans.**

- i. Inamgaon is located on river Ghod, a tributary of the Bhima.
- ii. It seems to have been captured around 3,600 to 2,700 years ago.
- iii. Adults buried in the ground were laid out straight with the head towards the north.
- iv. Many burials took place within the houses.
- v. Vessels containing food and water were kept with the dead.

### Q.3. How were Vedas a big source of knowledge?

**Ans.**

- i. The word 'Veda' means knowledge.
- ii. There are four Vedas: Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda.
- iii. The hymns have been composed by sages.
- iv. These hymns were recited and passed from one generation to another until they were written down.
- v. These hymns are in praise of different gods such as Indra, the God of rain; Agni, the fire god; Varun, the sky god and many others.
- vi. The hymns were composed in Vedic Sanskrit.

## **Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)**

**Q.1. What do Megaliths tell us about North-west and Deccan?**

**Ans.**

- i. Megaliths were big stone boulders arranged carefully by people, to mark burial sites in North-west and Deccan.
- ii. Megaliths were seen both on the surface and quite often underground.
- iii. All these burials had similar attributes which included digging pits in the Earth, transporting stones, breaking boulders, placing stones in position, finding suitable stones, shaping the stones and burying the dead.
- iv. Generally, the dead were buried with distinctive pots, known as Black and Red Ware.

**Q.2. How battles were fought according to the Rigveda?**

**Ans.**

- i. Battles were fought for land which was important for pastures and for growing hardy crops that ripened quickly, such as barley.
- ii. Some of the wealth that was obtained was kept by the leaders, some was given to the priests and the rest was distributed amongst the people.
- iii. Some wealth was used for the performance of Yajnas or sacrifices in which offerings were made to the fire.
- iv. There was no regular army, but there were assemblies where people met and discussed matters of war and peace.