

# BIJENDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL, PURNEA

Class : 6

Subject : Social Studies (History)

## Chapter - 4 THE VEDIC AGE

I. Tick (✓) the correct option.

1. Which is the oldest Veda?

- i. Sama Veda
- ii. Rig Veda
- iii. Yajur Veda

Ans. ii. Rig Veda

2. Which Veda has been included by UNESCO in the list of literature signifying World Human Heritage?

- i. Sama Veda
- ii. Rig Veda
- iii. Yajur Veda

Ans. ii. Rig Veda

3. The Sama Veda is a book of

- i. Chants, incantations, dialogues
- ii. Rules for performing rites and rituals
- iii. Hymns meant to be sung during religious ceremonies

Ans. iii. Hymns meant to be sung during religious ceremonies

4. The main gods in the Rig Veda are

- i. Indra, Vishnu and Shiva
- ii. Vishnu, Brahma and Rudra
- iii. Indra, Agni and Varuna

Ans. iii. Indra, Agni and Varuna

5. The tribal assemblies mentioned in the Rig Veda are

- i. Sabha and samiti
- ii. Jana and samiti
- iii. Vish and sabha

Ans. i. Sabha and samiti

II. State whether the following statements are true or false.

- 1. People of the Early Vedic Societies worshipped the forces of nature. True
- 2. Painted Grey ware pottery is associated with the Early Vedic people. False
- 3. The early Indo - Aryans mainly practised agriculture. True
- 4. In later Vedic period, the position of the King was less powerful. False
- 5. Megaliths are the small stone structures believed to have no religious significance. False

III. Answer the following questions in one sentence.

1. Name the four Vedas.

Ans. Four Vedas are the Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda and Atharva Veda.

2. Name the occupations of the people in the Early Vedic society.

Ans. Agriculture and cattle rearing were the main occupations of the people in the Early Vedic times.

3. With which culture is the painted Grey ware associated? Name some excavated sites.

Ans. Painted Grey ware is associated with Later Vedic period. Some excavated sites are Hastinapura, Kaushambi and Atranjikhhera.

4. Why did the people of the Later Vedic society worship gods?

Ans. Through worship, Later Vedic people asked for Praja (children), Pashu (cattle), food, wealth and health.

5. Name four megalithic sites in India.

Ans. Four important megalithic sites in India are Takkalghat and Khopa, Mahurjhari and Naikund in Vidarbha.

IV. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. Who were the Indo - Aryans? Where did they come from?

Ans. The Indus Valley Civilisation ended around 1,500 BCE. Around the same time, a new group of people - the Aryans - arrived in north-west India. Originally, the Aryans probably lived somewhere in the steppes, stretching from Southern Russia to Central Asia. From here, they migrated to north-west India. This is why they are also known as Indo - Aryans.

2. Describe the four ashramas.

Ans. According to the Vedic literature, a man's life was divided into four stages or ashrams, The first stage was brahmacharya - in this a man is a child and acquires education, second stage is grahastha in which a man marries and leads a family life. Third stage is Vanaprastha - in this stage a man stays away from the family and meditate. The fourth stage is sanyasa - it is complete retirement.

3. In which two ways do you think the life of a rajan was different from that of a dasa?

Ans. The life of a Rajan was different from that of a dasa in many ways:-

Life of raja		Life of dasa	
i.	Raja was one of the highest civil positions in the country.	i.	Dasa had lowest position in the society.
ii.	They were considered as the owners.	ii.	They were considered as property of their owners.

4. Discuss the political life of the people during the Early Vedic period.

Ans. The polity of the Early Vedic period was basically a tribal polity with the tribal chief in the centre. The tribe was called Jana and the tribal chief was called Rajana. Rajana looked after the affairs of the tribe with the help of other tribal members and two tribal assemblies i. e. Sabha and Samiti. Sabha is consisted of elder members of the tribe, whereas the Samiti which mainly dealt with policy decisions and political business.

5. Discuss the religious life of the people during the Later Vedic period.

Ans. In the Later Vedic period, many changes took place in the religious practices. Prajapati, the Creator, Vishnu, the Preserver, and Rudra or Shiva the Destroyer emerged as all-powerful deities. Through worship, recitation and sacrifices, people asked for praja (children), pashu (cattle), food, wealth and health.

V. Answer the following questions in detail.

1. Write a note on the Vedas.

Ans. Vedas are collection of poems, hymns and short compositions that were initially composed orally. There are four Vedas - the Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, and Atharva Veda.

Rig Veda - The Rig Veda is the oldest Vedas and it contains about 1,028 hymns called *suktas*, meaning 'well-said'.

Sama Veda - The Sama Veda contains hymns sung by a special class of priests during important religious ceremonies and sacrifices.

Yajur Veda - The Yajur Veda contains rules that are meant to be followed in religious ceremonies, sacrifices, and rituals.

Atharva Veda - The Atharva Veda is a collection of songs, spells, magical charms to ward off evil spirits.

2. Compare and contrast the life in the Early and Later Vedic periods.

Ans. Differences between Early Vedic Age and Later Vedic Age:-

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| i. The caste system was flexible and based on profession rather than birth.                                | i. The caste system became more rigid in this period with birth being the main criteria.  |
| ii. Kingship was fluid as the kings were elected for a fixed period by the local assembly known as Samiti. | ii. As society became more urbanized in this period, the need for stable leadership was realized. Thus the absolute rule of the kings became more and more prominent. |
| iii. Early Vedic society was pastoralist and semi-nomadic in nature.                                       | iii. Society became more settled in nature. It became centered around agriculture in general.   |

3. Discuss the Megalithic cultures of India.

Ans. Megalithic are large stone structures or groups of standing stones that are believed to have some religious significance. Sometimes, they were erected on burial sites or were used to commemorate heroic deeds. The term megalith means 'large stone'. It is derived from the Greek words *megas* (great) and *lithos* (stone). Megalithic monuments of large stones have been found throughout India, from Kashmir in the north to Tamil Nadu in the south. They are particularly states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.