

IAS Prelims Exam: Ancient History

NCERT Questions: The Neolithic Age: The Beginning of Human Life

Old edition of NCERT Books are still high in demand in terms of UPSC IAS Exam Preparation because it has extensive coverage of the topics given in the UPSC IAS Exam syllabus. The IAS aspirants find it difficult to get an old edition NCERT book from market due to its unavailability in the market.

Here, we have provided Multiple Choice Questions of Ancient Indian History which have been created from the old edition of NCERT book, go and check your level of your Preparation of IAS Prelims Exam.

1. According to the scholars the most fundamental advance that has affected the course of human life are:

- I. Domestication of animals
- II. Cultivation of crops
- III. Technological advancement

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. I and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: b

Explanation: According to the scholars, the most fundamental advance that has affected the course of human life was the domestication of a large number of animals and plants. The present evidence suggests that in west Asia, wheat and barley were domesticated by c. 7000 B.C. Rice seems to have been domesticated in India by about 7000 B.C., as the evidence from Koldihwa in the Belan valley shows. Evidence from several sites (especially Aq Kupruk in Afghanistan) suggests that wild precursors of domesticated sheep, goat and cattle were being exploited by man about 16,000 years back. The continuing presence of sheep and goat bones in good quantities in early phase of

Neolithic culture in that area (dated to c. 7000-10000 B.C.) has been interpreted as an indication that they had already been domesticated by that time.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the economy of Neolithic culture:

- I. The economy of all these early Neolithic cultures was based on agriculture and animal domestication.
- II. The earliest evidence for Neolithic culture based on agricultural economy comes from the north-western part of the Indo-Pakistan region - basically in the Quetta valley and in the Valleys of Loralai and Zob rivers.
- III. The archaeological sites of Kile Ghul Mohammad, Gumla, Rana Ghundai, Anjira, Mundigak, and Mehrgarh in the Kacchi plain give evidence of a date between c. 7000-5000 B.C.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. I and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: The economy of all these early Neolithic cultures was based on agriculture and animal domestication. The earliest evidence for Neolithic culture based on agricultural economy comes from the north-western part of the Indo-Pakistan region - basically in the Quetta valley and in the Valleys of Loralai and Zob rivers. The archaeological sites of Kile Ghul Mohammad, Gumla, Rana Ghundai, Anjira, Mundigak, and Mehrgarh in the Kacchi plain give evidence of a date between c. 7000-5000 B.C.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Neolithic site of Mehrgarh:

- I. The evidence shows that the habitation here in Mehrgarh began in about c. 7000 B.C. but in the early period no use of ceramic is seen.
- II. In about a 1000 years' time i.e. around c. 6000 B.C. earthen pots and pans come in use: first handmade and then wheel-made.
- III. In the pre-ceramic period an irregular scatter of square or rectangular houses made of mud bricks and separated by refuse dumps and passage ways made up the first village.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. I and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: The evidence shows that the habitation here began in about c. 7000 B.C. but in the early period no use of ceramic is seen. However, in about a 1000 years' time i.e. around c. 6000 B.C. earthen pots and pans come in use: first handmade and then wheel-made. In the pre-ceramic period an irregular scatter of square or rectangular houses made of mud bricks and separated by refuse dumps and passage ways made up the first village. The houses were subdivided into four or more internal compartments, some of which may have been used for storage.

4. The Neolithic people used which of the following stones to make beads?

- a. Lapis Lazuli
- b. Carnelian
- c. Banded agate
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: The beads found with burial remains show that people used beads made of lapis lazuli, carnelian, banded agate and white marine shell. A single copper bead has also been found.

5. From which of the following evidences it indicates that the Neolithic people had long distance trade?

- a. From the occurrence of gold and silver
- b. From the occurrence of shell bangles and pendants made of mother-of-pearl
- c. From the names inscribed on the metal pots
- d. From the occurrence of stones like lapis lazuli and carnelian

Answer: b

Explanation: The occurrence of shell bangles and pendants made of mother-of-pearl indicates long-

distance trade. Mother-of-pearl, a rare material which has no evidence of locally finds.

6. Which of the following Neolithic sites are now in the state of Uttar Pradesh?

- a. Mahgara
- b. Chopani Mando
- c. Koldihwa
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: To the east of the Indus valley, in Ganga valley, Assam and the north-east region, a large number of Neolithic sites have been found. Some of the most important sites are Gufkral and Burzahom in Kashmir, Mahgara, Chopani Mando and Koldihwa in Belan valley in Uttar Pradesh, and Chirand in Bihar.

7. From which of the following Neolithic sites the oldest evidence of rice in the world has been found?

- a. Chopani Mando
- b. Mahgara
- c. Koldihwa
- d. Burzahom

Answer: c

Explanation: Three radiocarbon dates from Koldihwa provide the earliest evidence for the domesticated variety of rice going back to about c. 6500 B.C. which make it the oldest evidence of rice in any part of the world. Thus, in all probability agriculture in the Belan valley began around c. 6500 B.C. Besides rice, evidence for barley cultivation is attested at Mahgara.

8. From which of the following sites it has been indicated that the Neolithic shelters were in pits dwellings rather than building houses?

- a. Mahgara
- b. Burzahom
- c. Koldihwa

d. Chopani Mando

Answer: b

Explanation: In the north-west, the early Neolithic settlers in Burzahom lived in pit dwellings, rather than building houses over the ground.

9. From which of the following regions of India the small polished Neolithic stone axes have been found?

- a. Cochar hills
- b. Garo hills
- c. Naga hills
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: From Assam and further north-east regions small polished Neolithic stone axes have been found from Cochar hills, Garo hills and Naga hills. Unfortunately, so far very little cultural material has been found to throw light on the life of the makers of these axes and there is little or no dating evidence.

10. The evidence of shoulder celts and round-buttled axes associated with crude cord has been recovered from which of the following Neolithic sites?

- a. Kodekal
- b. Burzahom
- c. Sarutaru
- d. Utnur

Answer: c

Explanation: The excavations at Sarutaru near Guwahati revealed shouldered celts and round-buttled axes associated with crude cord-or basket-marked pottery.