

**Grade: VI SUB: HISTORY**

**DATE: 24.6.20**

**1. STUDYING THE PAST**

**I.ANSWER THE FOLLOWING**

**1. Why do we need to study the past?**

The study of past is important to understand the present.

**2. What are monuments? What do they tell us?**

* Buildings that are historically important are known as monuments
* Monuments tell us a lot about the time period in which they were built. The science, culture, religious beliefs and architecture of the people of the time and place in which the monument was built, are exemplified through the monuments.

**3. What is religious literature? Give two examples**.

Writings that are based on religion, deal with religion or its ideals are known as religious literature. There are many religious texts in the Indian history, many Upanishads and Vedas, but the two prominent religious texts are Ramayana and Mahabharata.

**4. Write a short note on secular literature**.

. Secular literature are writings that are not religious. These include poems, plays, stories, biographies of kings, accounts of foreign travels and books on science and politics.  
Examples of secular literature are Arthashastra by Kautilya, the Indika by Megasthenes, poems and plays by Kalidasa, accounts of Fa Hien and Hieun Tsang and Sangam literature.

**5. How have the Himalayas helped in shaping the history of India?**

The Himalayas have helped in shaping the history of India as it forms a natural barrier between India and Central Asia. They have protected India against many invasions. The passes in these mountains have allowed merchants, traders, scholars, soldiers and explorers to come to India. They have contributed to the history of the country. These people brought different ideas, traditions and customs to India and enriched its culture as well as shaped its history. The geographical barrier of Himalayas has also an impact on India's climate and have significantly made an impact on the historical processes here.

**6. How is the work of an archaeologist and a historian similar to that of a detective?**

The work of archaeologists and historians are similar to detectives because like detectives, they try to put together archaeological clues and written records to piece together the past. Just like detectives investigate and collect evidence, archaeologists and historians find archaeological clues such as broken pots from earlier time periods, written records and manuscripts to know about the past. They use two types of clues that are the sources of history; archaeological and literary.

**7.Why did people first settle near river valleys?**

Geography has always been the determining factor of development in a particular place. Favourable environments with plenty of resources are populated. Therefore, river valleys were preferred by people for the following reasons:  
  
i) Sufficient water for all their needs are provided by river water.  
ii) Crops could be grown easily as the land near the river was very fertile. This was their source of food, which helped in their survival.  
iii) The river served as a means of transport.

**8.What are inscriptions? How do they help us know about ancient India?**

The written records on the walls of caves, metal pillars, rocks, stones, copper, stone and clay tablets, walls of temples are known as inscriptions.  
The inscriptions on the monuments, metal pillars, rocks, copper and clay tablets have been a source of information about the victories and achievements of the rulers of the ancient empires. The way of life, events and culture of the empires are depicted through inscriptions. They are relevant sources of information about battles and deeds of emperors and their achievements. They also highlight the influence and historical legacy of a king or an emperor. This helps us to know about the past, form an idea and gain knowledge about the history.

**9.How are coins a valuable source of information about ancient India?**

Coins are a valuable archaeological source of information. They help in gaining knowledge about ancient India in the following ways:  
i) The way of life and the administration of reigning kings of the past are known through coins.  
ii) An idea about the economy of the past is gained from them.  
iii) The extent of the king's empire is known.  
iv) The trade policies and routes are highlighted.  
v) Art and religion of the particular period also comes to light.

**HOTS**

**1. Pottery is one of the most common finds on an excavation site. Why?**

The beginning of pottery was in the Indus Valley civilisation. It was one of the most found artefacts on the excavation sites. This is because of the following reasons:  
1. The crops cultivated by people needed to be kept for later use. Pottery was extensively made to store the grains. The consumption spread over a longer period of time due to pottery.  
2. These were made for other applications such as to contain water, oil and fats of animals.  
3. Pottery was also used as utensils for cooking and eating.

**2. Why do you think rulers in ancient times recorded their victories on hard surfaces like rocks and pillars?**

The rulers in ancient times recorded their victories on hard surfaces like copper and stone plates. This is because of the following reasons:  
1. The inscriptions on the stone and copper plates are clear, legible and do not wear away easily.  
2. The victories and achievements of the rulers could be read by the people. This would make them aware of the ruler's authority and power.  
3. The records last for a longer time and people of the future periods come to know about the history. This makes the rulers and their achievements everlasting and creates a legacy.