

QUICK DRILL · CBSE CLASS 12

Kinship, Caste and Class — Early Societies (c. 600 BCE-600 CE)

History · Chapter 3 · 15 MCQs · 20 minutes · PYQ-tagged with time budgets

DATE	TOTAL MARKS 15	DURATION 20 min	MARKING +1 / 0	TARGET ≥ 12/15
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OBJECTIVES

Reinforce the four core topics of Kinship, Caste and Class — Early Societies (c. 600 BCE-600 CE) via 15 PYQ-derived MCQs. Identify weak sub-topics via concept-node IDs (see answer key). Build per-question time budget habit.

INSTRUCTIONS

Attempt all 15. Time budget shown per Q (use it as pacing guide). Mark answers (A/B/C/D) in the margin. Answer key + explanations on the last page. **Don't peek — score yourself honestly.**

SECTION · QUICK DRILL

Q 1-15 · 20 MIN

Q1. The Mahabharata is believed to have been composed over a period of approximately:

- (A) 100 years (B) 500 years
(C) 1000 years (D) 2000 years

PYQ 2018 · Delhi · 1m · 25s

Q2. The Critical Edition of the Mahabharata was prepared under the leadership of:

- (A) R.D. Banerji (B) V.S. Sukthankar
(C) John Marshall (D) D.D. Kosambi

PYQ 2019 · All India · 1m · 25s

Q3. The Critical Edition project took about how many years to complete?

- (A) 17 years (B) 27 years
(C) 47 years (D) 67 years

PYQ 2022 · Delhi · 1m · 25s

Q4. Tracing descent through the father's line is called:

- (A) Matriliney (B) Patriliney
(C) Exogamy (D) Endogamy

PYQ 2020 · Delhi · 1m · 20s

Q5. Marrying outside one's own gotra is known as:

- (A) Endogamy (B) Gotra exogamy
(C) Polygyny (D) Polyandry

PYQ 2018 · Outside Delhi · 1m · 25s

Q6. A gotra was named after a:

- (A) King (B) Vedic seer (rishi)
(C) Village (D) Deity

PYQ 2019 · Delhi · 1m · 25s

Q7. Draupadi's marriage to the five Pandavas is an example of:

- (A) Polygyny (B) Endogamy
(C) Polyandry (D) Monogamy

PYQ 2022 · All India · 1m · 25s

Q8. Which dynasty's inscriptions show queens retaining their fathers' gotras, contradicting the exogamy rule?

- (A) Mauryas (B) Satavahanas
(C) Guptas (D) Cholas

PYQ 2023 · Delhi · 1m · 30s

Q9. Which text is the most important Dharmashastra laying down the varna order?

- (A) Arthashastra (B) Manusmriti
(C) Rigveda (D) Mahabhashya

PYQ 2020 · All India · 1m · 25s

Q10. In the varna order, the group expected to serve the other three was the:

- (A) Brahmanas (B) Kshatriyas
(C) Vaishyas (D) Shudras

PYQ 2018 · All India · 1m · 25s

Q11. The three higher varnas were collectively called:

- (A) Mlecchas (B) Dvija (twice-born)
(C) Chandalas (D) Nishadas

PYQ 2021 · Delhi · 1m · 30s

Q12. Birth-and-occupation groups, far more numerous than the four varnas, were called:

- (A) Gotras (B) Jatis
(C) Kulas (D) Sanghas

PYQ 2019 · Outside Delhi · 1m · 25s

Q13. The group ranked lowest and treated as 'untouchable' in the Manusmriti was the:

- (A) Vaishyas (B) Chandalas
(C) Kshatriyas (D) Yavanas

PYQ 2023 · All India · 1m · 30s

Q14. Which Chinese pilgrim recorded that untouchables had to sound a clapper to warn others?

- (A) Xuan Zang (B) Fa Xian
(C) I-tsing (D) Megasthenes

PYQ 2024 · Delhi · 1m · 30s

Q15. Ekalavya, who was refused training by Drona, belonged to which group?

- (A) Brahmana (B) Kshatriya
(C) Nishada (forest people) (D) Vaishya

PYQ 2024 · All India · 1m · 30s

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

Q 1-15 · MARK YOUR SCORE

Q1. Answer: C

Grew over ~1000 years (c. 500 BCE-400 CE).

Q2. Answer: B

V.S. Sukthankar at BORI, Pune.

Q3. Answer: C

47 years (1919-1966).

Q4. Answer: B

Patriliney = descent through the father.

Q5. Answer: B

Gotra exogamy = marrying outside one's clan.

Q6. Answer: B

Each gotra was named after a Vedic rishi.

Q7. Answer: C

Polyandry = one woman, several husbands.

Q8. Answer: B

Satavahana queens kept their fathers' gotras.

Q9. Answer: B

Manusmriti (c. 200 BCE-200 CE).

Q10. Answer: D

Shudras — to serve the three higher varnas.

Q11. Answer: B

Dvija (twice-born) — entitled to Vedic ritual.

Q12. Answer: B

Jati = lived birth-occupation category.

Q13. Answer: B

Chandalas — placed outside the varna order.

Q14. Answer: B

Fa Xian (early 5th c. CE).

Q15. Answer: C

Ekalavya was a nishada forest youth.