



# HISTORY

## BOOKS - FULL MARKS HISTORY

### (HINGLISH)

## KINSHIP, CASTE AND CLASS EARLY SOCIETIES

**Ncert Textbook Questions Solved**

1. Explain why patriliney may have been particularly important among elite families.



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2. Discuss whether kings in early states were invariably Kshatriyas.



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**3.** Compare and contrast the dharma or norms mentioned in the stories of Drona, Hidimba and Matanga.



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**4.** In what ways was the Buddhist theory of a social contract different from the Brahmanical view of a society derived from the Purusha Sukta?



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5. The following is an excerpt from the Mahabharata, in which Yudhishthira, the eldest son of Pandava, speaks to Sanjay, a messenger. Sanjaya, convey my respectful greetings to all the Brahmanas and the chief priest of the house of Dhritarashtra. I bow respectfully to teacher Drona ... I hold the feet of our preceptor Kripa ... (and) the chief of the Kurus, the great Bhishma. I bow respectfully to the old king (Dhritarashtra). I greet and ask after the health of his son Duryodhana and his

younger brother ... Also greet all the young Kuru warriors who are our brothers, sons and grandsons ... Greet above all him, who is to us like father and mother, the wise Vidura (born of a slave woman) ... I bow to the elderly ladies who are known as our mothers. To those who are our wives you say this, "I hope they are well-protected"... Our daughters-in-law born of good families and mothers of children greet on my behalf. Embrace for me those who are our daughters ... The beautiful, fragrant, well-dressed courtesans of ours you should also greet. Greet the slave women and their

children, greet the aged, the maimed (and) the helpless ... Try and identify the criteria used to make this list in terms of age, gender, kinship ties. Are there any other criteria? For each category, explain why they are placed in a particular position in the list.



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**6.** This is what a famous historian of Indian literature, Maurice Winternitz wrote about the Mahabharata. "Just because the Mahabharata

represents more of an entire literature and contains so much and so many kinds of things, (it) gives us an insight into the most profound depths of the soul of the Indian folk." Discuss.



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7. Discuss whether the Mahabharata could have been the work of a single author.



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8. How important were gender differences in early societies ? Give reason for your answer.



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9. Discuss the evidence that suggests that Brahmanical prescriptions about kinship and marriage were not universally followed.



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1. Compare the map in this chapter with map 1 in chapter 2. List the Mahajanapadas and cities located near the kuru-Panchala lands.



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## Additional Questions Solved Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What do you mean by the term epic?



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2. Give two importance of Manusmriti?



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3. Why and between whom was the Mahabharata war fought? What was its result?



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4. What do you mean by term Kula and Jati?



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5. What is endogamy?



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6. How was patrilineal succession proclaimed in the story of Mahabharata?



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7. Why was exogamy considered desirable for the continuity of Patrilineage?



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8. Who were regarded as Mlechchhas? Name one of the best known Mlechchha king.



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9. Mention any two duties laid down in Manusmriti for Chandalas.

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10. What was 'Gotra'?

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11. What do you mean by the term 'Gotra'?

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**12.** What were the two functions performed by Vaishyas?



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**13.** Who were the Shakas? How were they regarded by Brahmins?



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**14.** Who was Rudradaman? What he did?



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**15.** Who was the well known ruler of the Satavahana dynasty? What was he famous for?



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**16.** Define the term Patriliney and Matriliney.



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**17.** What are Endogamy and Exogamy?



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**18.** Give the introduction of 'Drona' and 'Eklavya' in brief.



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**19.** Mention one of the most challenging episodes in Mahabharata.



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**20.** What was Stridhana?



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**21.** Women could not claim a share in the paternal estate but allowed to retain her

wealth. Explain.



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22. Who was Ghatotkacha?



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23. Who was V.S. Sukthankar? Describe his achievements.



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**24.** Kanyadana was considered as an important social duty of a father. Why?



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**25.** How many forms of marriages were recognised by the Dharmashastras?



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**26.** Write the name of the Chinese pilgrims who visited India in the 5th and 7th centuries.



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**27.** What type of people were regarded as untouchables?



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28. What does Manusmriti say about the division of paternal property?



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## Additional Questions Solved Short Answer Type Questions

1. State the rules contained in Dharmasutras and Dharmashastras about the idea of occupation of the four Varnas.



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2. What were the rules of gotra as given in Brahmanical practice? Give an example to show that these rules were not always followed.



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3. How could men and women acquire wealth?



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4. Discuss the Varna and Jati.



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5. Compare and contrast the term Varna and Jati.



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6. Who were Satavahanas? What did they do?  
Discuss.



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7. Who were regarded as beyond the four Varnas?



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8. Who were known as outcastes? How were they treated?



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9. Why were the Dharmashastras written?



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10. How do historians classify the subject matter of Mahabharata? Explain brief.



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11. Describe that the Mahabharata is a dynamic text.





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**12.** Explain, why we called Mahabharata a dynamic text.



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**13.** What did B.B. Lal note about the houses in the second phase of Mahabharata period? Explain.



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# Additional Questions Solved Long Answer Type Questions

1. Explain the three explanations given by the authors for Draupadi's marriage. Why do you think the authors offered three explanations for a single episode?



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2. The Mahabharata is a good source to study the social value of ancient times. Prove it.



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3. The rules of the Brahmanical texts were not universally followed in ancient time. Justify giving evidences.



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4. Discuss the political, economic and social life of the people as represented in the Mahabharata.





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5. Explain the major social changes taken place in social life during the Mahabharata period.



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[Additional Questions](#) [Solved](#) [Source Based](#)  
[Questions](#)

1. Read the passage carefully and answer the question given as follows : Draupadi's

Marriage Drupada, the king of Panchala, organised a competition where the challenge was to string a bow and hit a target: the winner would be chosen to marry his daughter, Draupadi. Arjuna was victorious and was garlanded by Draupadi. The Pandavas returned with her to their mother, Kunti, who, even before she saw them, asked them to share whatever they had got. She realized her mistake when she saw Draupadi, but her command could not be violated. After much deliberation, Yudhishthira decided that Draupadi would be their common wife. When

Drupada was told about this, he protested. However, the seer Vyasa arrived and told him that the Pandavas were in reality incarnations of Indra, whose wife had been reborn as Draupadi and they were thus destined for each other. Vyasa added that in another instance a young woman had prayed to Lord Shiva for a husband, and in her enthusiasm, had prayed five times instead of once. This woman was now reborn as Draupadi and Shiva had fulfilled her prayers. Convinced by these stories, Drupada consented to the marriage.

What was the competition organized by the

Panchala king, Drupada for the marriage of his daughter?



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2. Read the passage carefully and answer the question given as follows :

### Draupadi's Marriage

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Draupadi. Arjuna was victorious and was garlanded by Draupadi. The Pandavas returned with her to their mother, Kunti, who, even before she saw them, asked them to share whatever they had got. She realized her mistake when she saw Draupadi, but her command could not be violated. After much deliberation, Yudhishthira decided that Draupadi would be their common wife. When Drupada was told about this, he protested. However, the seer Vyasa arrived and told him that the Pandavas were in reality incarnations of Indra, whose wife had been reborn as

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What form of the marriage was Draupadi's marriage to the Pandavas?

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had fulfilled her prayers. Convinced by these stories, Drupada consented to the marriage.

What two explanations were given by Vyasa to convince king Drupada for Draupadi being the common wife of the Pandavas?



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4. Read the passage carefully and answer the question given as follows :

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Give two views of historians about polyandry.



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5. Read the passage carefully and answer the question given as follows:

### A Mother's Advice

The Mahabharata describes how, when war between the Kauravas and the Pandavas became almost inevitable, Gandhari made one last appeal to her eldest son, Duryodhana:

By making peace you honour your father and me, as well as your well-wishers it is the wise man in control of his senses who guards his kingdom. Greed and anger drag a man away



from his profits, by defeating these two enemies a king conquers the earth ... You will happily enjoy the earth, my son, along with the wise and heroic Pandavas ... There is no good in a war, no law (dharma) and profit (artha), let alone happiness, nor is there (necessarily) victory in the end - don't set your mind on war ... Duryodhana did not listen to this advice and fought and lost the war.

Who was Gandhari? What did she appeal to Duryodhana?



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Why did they agree with her advice to her son?



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Why did Duryodhana not act on advice of his mother?



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**8.** Read the passage carefully and answer the question that as follow:

Eight forms of marriage

Here are the first, fourth, fifth and sixth forms of marriage from the Manusmriti:

First: The gift of a daughter, after dressing her in costly clothes and honouring her with presents of jewels, to a man learned in the Veda whom the father himself invites.

Fourth: The gift of a daughter by the father after he has addressed the couple with the text, “May both of you perform your duties

together”, and has shown honour to the bridegroom.

Fifth: When the bridegroom receives a maiden, after having given as much wealth as he can afford to the kinsmen and to the bride herself, according to his own will. Sixth: The voluntary union of a maiden and her lover ... which springs from desire ...

When was Manusmriti compiled?



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Fifth: When the bridegroom receives a maiden, after having given as much wealth as he can afford to the kinsmen and to the bride herself, according to his own will. Sixth: The voluntary union of a maiden and her lover ... which springs from desire ...

What did the passage narrate about?



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**10.** Read the passage carefully and answer the question that as follow:

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How did the Dharmasutra and Dharmashastra classify the marriage?



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## Previous Years Board Questions Solved

1. Mention any two ideal occupations of Brahmanas according to Dharmashastra.



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2. How did the concept of 'Jati' evolve? How was it different from Varna?



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3. Describe the various states through which Mahabharata was completed between the fifth century BCE and CE.



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4. Explain the findings of the archaeologist B.B. Lal in excavations at the village named Hastinapur.



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5. What was patriliney? Give one example.



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6. Critically examine the duties as laid down in Manusmriti for Chandalas.



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7. How the historians classify the context and the language of Mahabharata? Discuss.



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8. "The Mahabharata is a story of changing relationship". Discuss. How did it strengthen the ideal of patriliney?



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9. How are all families not identical? Explain the kinds of variations that occurred in ancient times.





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**10.** The central story of Mahabharata analyses the familial relationship. Justify the statement with evidences.



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**11.** Read the passage given below and answer the question that follow:

Why kinfolk quarrelled

This is an excerpt from the Adi Parvan (literally,



the first section) of the Sanskrit Mahabharata, describing why conflicts arose amongst the Kauravas and Pandavas: The Kauravas were the ... sons of Dhritarashtra, and the Pandavas ... were their cousins. Since Dhritarashtra was blind, his younger brother Pandu ascended the throne of Hastinapura ... However, after the premature death of Pandu, Dhritarashtra became king, as the royal princes were still very young. As the princes grew up together, the citizens of Hastinapura began to express their preference for the Pandavas, for they were more capable and virtuous than the

Kauravas. This made Duryodhana, the eldest of the Kauravas, jealous. He approached his father and said, "You yourself did not receive the throne, although it fell to you, because of your defect. If the Pandava receives the patrimony from Pandu, his son will surely inherit it in turn, and so will his son, and his. We ourselves with our sons shall be excluded from the royal succession and become of slight regard in the eyes of the world, lord of the earth!"

What does this excerpt trying to depict?



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**12.** Read the passage given below and answer the question that follow:

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We ourselves with our sons shall be excluded from the royal succession and become of slight regard in the eyes of the world, lord of the earth!"

Who was Dhritarashtra? How did he become the king and why?

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**13.** Read the passage given below and answer the question that follow:

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Why did Duryodhana feel jealous of the Pandavas?



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**14.** Read the passage given below and answer the question that follow:

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Explain about the worries of Duryodhana that he expressed to his father.



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Mention the criteria for becoming a king as suggested in the excerpt.



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**16.** Read the passage given below and answer the question that follow:

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Why did the citizens of Hastinapur express their preference for the Pandavas?

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**17.** According to Shastras only the Kshatriyas could be the king but we find several exceptions to this rule. Explain the statement.



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**18.** Examine the gendered access to property from c. 600 BCE to 600 CE. Explain the Brahmanical views for regulating access to



wealth as codified in Dharmasutras and Dharmashastras.



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**19.** Examine the elements used by historians to analyse Mahabharata.



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**20.** Explain the Brahmanical norms of marriage.



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21. Explain why it (Mahabharata) considered a dynamic text.



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22. "The Mahabharata is a story of kinship, marriages and patriliney." Examine the statement.



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**23.** "Because of the diversity of the Indian subcontinent there have always been populations whose social practices were not influenced by the Brahmanical ideas during 600 BCE - 600 CE." Examine the statement.



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**24.** Identify any two strategies evolved by Brahmanas to enforce the norms of Varna Order from c. 600 BCE to 600 CE.



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25. Explain the language and content of Mahabharata.



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26. Identify any two occupations to be performed by Kshatriyas as per Varna Order.



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**27.** What do you know about the authors and the period when Mahabharata was compiled? Explain.



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**28.** "Rumours and prophecies played a part in moving the people into action during the revolt of 1857". Examine the statement with rumours and reasons for its belief.



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**29.** Explain how you will prove that the text of Mahabharata was a dynamic one.



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