

Indian Knowledge System – Question Bank

Section 1: Linguistics

1. The Ashtadhyayi consists of how many sutras (aphorisms)?

- a) 2000
- b) 3959
- c) 1500
- d) 8000

Answer: b) 3959

2. Which ancient Indian text is considered the foundational work on Sanskrit grammar?

- a) Nyaya Sutra
- b) Ashtadhyayi
- c) Charaka Samhita
- d) Natya Shastra

Answer: b) Ashtadhyayi

3. "Nirukta" deals with:

- a) Word derivation and etymology
- b) Syntax rules
- c) Poetic meters
- d) Drama theory

Answer: a) Word derivation and etymology

4. Who is the author of Ashtadhyayi?

- a) Patanjali
- b) Panini
- c) Katyayana
- d) Bharata Muni

Answer: b) Panini

5. In Indian linguistic tradition, the term "Shabda" refers to:

- a) Syntax
- b) Grammar
- c) Sound/Word

d) Etymology

Answer: c) Sound/Word

6. What is the term for the smallest meaningful unit of sound in Sanskrit grammar?

a) Pada

b) Varna

c) Sutra

d) Dhatu

Answer: b) Varna

7. Who wrote the *Mahabhashya*?

a) Patanjali

b) Bhartrihari

c) Panini

d) Charaka

Answer: a) Patanjali

8. Which of the following is a commentary on Panini's *Ashtadhyayi*?

a) Mahabhashya

b) Varttika

c) Both a and b

d) None of these

Answer: c) Both a and b

9. The term "Vyakarana" in ancient Indian tradition refers to:

a) Astronomy

b) Grammar

c) Medicine

d) Mathematics

Answer: b) Grammar

Section 2: Number and Measurements (Mathematics)

10. The concept of zero (shunya) was first explicitly described in which Indian text?

- a) Aryabhatiya
- b) Brahmasphuta Siddhanta
- c) Lilavati
- d) Sulba Sutras

Answer: b) Brahmasphuta Siddhanta

11. Who is the author of the famous ancient Indian text *Āryabhaṭīya*?

- a) Bhāskara I
- b) Āryabhaṭa
- c) Varāhamihira
- d) Brahmagupta

Answer: b) Āryabhaṭa

12. Who is the author of the famous mathematical work "Lilavati"?

- a) Aryabhata
- b) Brahmagupta
- c) Bhaskara II
- d) Varahamihira

Answer: c) Bhaskara II

13. Which ancient Indian text discusses algebraic methods in detail?

- a) Sūrya Siddhānta
- b) Līlāvātī
- c) Āryabhaṭīya
- d) Siddhānta Śiromaṇi

Answer: d) Siddhānta Śiromaṇi

14. The Pythagorean theorem was known in ancient India as part of:

- a) Sulba Sutras
- b) Vedanga Jyotisha
- c) Nyaya Sutras
- d) Arthashastra

Answer: a) Sulba Sutras

15. What is *Līlāvātī*, authored by Bhāskara II, primarily about?

- a) Astronomy
- b) Arithmetic and Geometry
- c) Astrology
- d) Cosmology

Answer: b) Arithmetic and Geometry

16. The decimal system was first properly developed in:

- a) Greece
- b) China
- c) India
- d) Egypt

Answer: c) India

17. The value of π (pi) was approximated by Aryabhata as:

- a) 3.1416
- b) $22/7$
- c) 3.162
- d) 3.0

Answer: a) 3.1416

18. What is the Bakhshali Manuscript known for?

- a) Linguistic rules
- b) Astronomical observations
- c) Use of decimal and fractions
- d) Ayurvedic medicine

Answer: c) Use of decimal and fractions

Section 3: Chemistry

19. The ancient Indian text that deals with metallurgy and alchemy is:

- a) Rasaratnakara
- b) Charaka Samhita
- c) Sushruta Samhita
- d) Arthashastra

Answer: a) Rasaratnakara

20. The ancient Indian practice of converting base metals into gold is called:

- a) Jivana
- b) Rasa Siddhi
- c) Dhatvīkāra
- d) Rasāyana

Answer: b) Rasa Siddhi

21. Who is considered the father of Indian alchemy?

- a) Nagarjuna
- b) Kanada
- c) Patanjali
- d) Varahamihira

Answer: a) Nagarjuna

22. The process of purifying metals and minerals before use in medicine is known as:

- a) Bhāsmīkāraṇa
- b) Shodhana
- c) Dāha
- d) Rūpaka

Answer: b) Shodhana

23. The process of distillation was known in ancient India as:

- a) Pakayana
- b) Dola Yantra
- c) Sutra Yantra
- d) None of these

Answer: b) Dola Yantra

24. The ancient Indians were experts in producing which high-quality steel?

- a) Damascus Steel
- b) Wootz Steel
- c) Stainless Steel
- d) Cast Iron

Answer: b) Wootz Steel

25. The term *Bhasma* refers to:

- a) A type of yoga
- b) Alchemical powder
- c) Holy chant
- d) Surgical tool

Answer: b) Alchemical powder

26. The term "Rasa Shastra" refers to:

- a) Astronomy
- b) Medicine and alchemy
- c) Mathematics
- d) Architecture

Answer: b) Medicine and alchemy

Section 4: Physics

27. The concept of atom (Anu) was first proposed by which Indian philosopher?

- a) Kapila
- b) Kanada
- c) Patanjali
- d) Gautama

Answer: b) Kanada

28. In Indian knowledge systems, *Tejas* refers to:

- a) Light or energy
- b) Earth
- c) Water

d) Sound

Answer: a) Light or energy

29. The theory of gravity was hinted at in which ancient Indian text?

a) Vedanga Jyotisha

b) Siddhanta Shiromani

c) Arthashastra

d) None of these

Answer: b) Siddhanta Shiromani

30. The principle of relativity (time dilation) was discussed in:

a) Puranas

b) Vedas

c) Jain texts

d) None of these

Answer: a) Puranas

31. According to Indian physics, *Kāla* is:

a) Sound

b) Time

c) Mass

d) Velocity

Answer: b) Time

32. The concept of "Tatva" in Vaisheshika philosophy refers to:

a) Fundamental elements

b) Divine power

c) Mathematical formula

d) None of these

Answer: a) Fundamental elements

33. The speed of light was first approximated in:

a) Rigveda

b) Sayana's commentary on Rigveda

- c) Upanishads
- d) None of these

Answer: b) Sayana's commentary on Rigveda

34. The concept of *karma* in Indian physics can be related to which modern physical principle?

- a) Thermodynamics
- b) Newton's Third Law (action–reaction)
- c) Law of gravity
- d) Theory of relativity

Answer: b) Newton's Third Law (action–reaction)

Section 5: Art and Architecture

35. The Indian term that most broadly refers to art, encompassing dance, music, drama, and painting is:

- a) Dharma
- b) Artha
- c) Kala
- d) Shastra

Answer: c) Kala

36. The ancient Indian text on performing arts is:

- a) Natya Shastra
- b) Kamasutra
- c) Arthashastra
- d) Manusmriti

Answer: a) Natya Shastra

37. In Indian aesthetics, *Rasa* refers to:

- a) Paint
- b) Flavor or aesthetic emotion
- c) Color
- d) Stage design

Answer: b) Flavor or aesthetic emotion

38. Who is the author of Natya Shastra?

- a) Bharata Muni
- b) Vishnu Sharma
- c) Patanjali
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Bharata Muni

39. How many *rasas* (emotional states) are traditionally described in Indian art theory?

- a) 5
- b) 7
- c) 9
- d) 12

Answer: c) 9

40. The "Shilpa Shastras" deal with:

- a) Sculpture and architecture
- b) Music and dance
- c) Medicine
- d) Astronomy

Answer: a) Sculpture and architecture

41. The "Chakra Vyuha" in Mahabharata is an example of:

- a) Military formation
- b) Temple architecture
- c) Dance form
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Military formation

42. The principle of *bhava* in Indian aesthetics relates to:

- a) Technique
- b) Emotional expression
- c) Costume
- d) Color

Answer: b) Emotional expression

43. The "Gandhara School of Art" was influenced by:

- a) Greek art
- b) Persian art
- c) Chinese art
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Greek art

44. The traditional system of musical notes in Indian music is called:

- a) Raag
- b) Swara
- c) Rasa
- d) Tala

Answer: b) Swara

Section 6: Astronomy

45. The ancient Indian astronomical text "Surya Siddhanta" primarily deals with:

- a) Planetary motions and eclipses
- b) Medical astrology
- c) Temple architecture
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Planetary motions and eclipses

46. **Rāhu** and **Ketu** in Indian astrology are considered:

- a) Physical planets
- b) Stars
- c) Lunar nodes or shadow planets
- d) Meteors

Answer: c) Lunar nodes or shadow planets

47. Who calculated the Earth's circumference in ancient India?

- a) Aryabhata
- b) Varahamihira
- c) Bhaskara I

d) Brahmagupta

Answer: a) Aryabhata

48. The concept of **Yuga** in Indian astronomy refers to:

a) Planetary distance

b) Solar eclipse

c) Large time cycle

d) Lunar calendar

Answer: c) Large time cycle

49. The "Aryabhatiya" is a famous work on:

a) Mathematics and astronomy

b) Medicine

c) Political science

d) None of these

Answer: a) Mathematics and astronomy

50. The concept of "Heliocentrism" (Sun as center of the solar system) was proposed by:

a) Aryabhata

b) Bhaskara II

c) Varahamihira

d) None of these

Answer: a) Aryabhata

51. The "Nakshatras" in Indian astronomy refer to:

a) Lunar mansions

b) Solar eclipses

c) Planetary positions

d) None of these

Answer: a) Lunar mansions

Section 7: Astrology

52. The twelve divisions of the sky used in astrology are called:

- a) Ritus
- b) Nakṣatras
- c) Rāśis
- d) Mantras

Answer: c) Rāśis

53. "Brihat Jataka" is a classical text on:

- a) Vedic astrology
- b) Ayurveda
- c) Mathematics
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Vedic astrology

54. Who is the author of "Brihat Jataka"?

- a) Varahamihira
- b) Aryabhata
- c) Parashara
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Varahamihira

55. The term **Dasha** in astrology refers to:

- a) Planetary aspect
- b) Time periods governed by planets
- c) House of fortune
- d) Spiritual ritual

Answer: b) Time periods governed by planets

56. The "Panchang" in Indian astrology consists of how many components?

- a) 5
- b) 7
- c) 9
- d) 12

Answer: a) 5 (Tithi, Vara, Nakshatra, Yoga, Karana)

57. The "Navagrahas" in Hindu astrology include:

- a) Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Rahu, Ketu
- b) Only visible planets
- c) Only deities
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Rahu, Ketu

58. The term "Kundali" in astrology refers to:

- a) Birth chart
- b) Sacred fire
- c) Temple architecture
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Birth chart

Section 8: Crafts and Trade

59. The "Arthashastra" written by Kautilya primarily deals with:

- a) Economics, statecraft, and trade
- b) Medicine
- c) Astronomy
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Economics, statecraft, and trade

60. According to Indian tradition, which deity is considered the divine architect or craftsman?

- a) Vishwakarma
- b) Agni
- c) Varuna
- d) Yama

Answer: a) Vishwakarma

61. The ancient Indian port city known for international trade was:

- a) Lothal
- b) Pataliputra

- c) Taxila
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Lothal

62. The "Silk Route" connected India with:

- a) China, Central Asia, and Europe
- b) Only Southeast Asia
- c) Only Africa
- d) None of these

Answer: a) China, Central Asia, and Europe

63. The "Dyeing and weaving" techniques of ancient India were famous for:

- a) Indigo and cotton textiles
- b) Silk production
- c) Woolen garments
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Indigo and cotton textiles

64. The "Guild system" in ancient India was related to:

- a) Trade and craftsmen associations
- b) Military organization
- c) Religious institutions
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Trade and craftsmen associations

Section 9: Engineering and Technology

65. The "Stepwells" of ancient India are excellent examples of:

- a) Water conservation and architecture
- b) Military forts
- c) Temple complexes
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Water conservation and architecture

66. The "Iron Pillar of Delhi" is known for its:

- a) Rust-resistant composition
- b) Magnetic properties
- c) Gold coating
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Rust-resistant composition

67. Ancient Indian "Vimanas" refer to:

- a) Mythical flying machines
- b) Temple towers
- c) War chariots
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Mythical flying machines (as described in texts like Vaimanika Shastra)

68. The "Sangam literature" mentions advanced:

- a) Shipbuilding and navigation
- b) Space travel
- c) Steam engines
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Shipbuilding and navigation

69. The "Kautilya's Arthashastra" describes techniques for:

- a) Fortification and siege warfare
- b) Temple construction
- c) Medical surgery
- d) None of these

Answer: a) Fortification and siege warfare

Section 10: Miscellaneous

70. The "Charaka Samhita" is a foundational text of:

- a) Ayurveda
- b) Astronomy
- c) Mathematics

d) None of these

Answer: a) Ayurveda

71. The "Sushruta Samhita" is famous for its contributions to:

a) Surgery and medicine

b) Astrology

c) Political science

d) None of these

Answer: a) Surgery and medicine

72. The "Vedanga Jyotisha" is associated with:

a) Astronomy and timekeeping

b) Martial arts

c) Poetry

d) None of these

Answer: a) Astronomy and timekeeping

73. The "Nalanda University" was a renowned center for:

a) Buddhist studies and sciences

b) Military training

c) Maritime trade

d) None of these

Answer: a) Buddhist studies and sciences

74. The "Takshashila University" was famous for:

a) Medicine, warfare, and linguistics

b) Only religious studies

c) Only mathematics

d) None of these

Answer: a) Medicine, warfare, and linguistics

75. Ancient Indian trade and craft practices demonstrated a deep integration of:

a) Technology and spirituality

b) Art and politics

c) Myth and warfare

d) Language and warfare

Answer: a) Technology and spirituality