

2026

(Regular)

Sanskrit (Core)

Paper Code : SN-CE-4214

Paper Name : Indian Epigraphy, Palaeography & Chronology

Time : 2½ hours

Full Marks : 60

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

1. Answer the following questions : 1×7=7
 - a) Who is known as the father of Indian Epigraphy ?
 - b) Name the scholar who deciphered the Brahmi script.
 - c) Which script is written from right to left ?
 - d) From which script did most Indian script develop ?
 - e) What is the study of ancient handwriting called ?
 - f) What is the starting year of Saka Era ?
 - g) Which era is commonly used in government records in India ?
2. Answer the following questions : 2×4=8
 - a) What do you mean by Epigraphy ?
 - b) What materials were commonly used for inscriptions in ancient India ?
 - c) What is meant by Prashasti in Epigraphy ?
 - d) Name the two main ancient scripts of India.
3. Answer the following (*any three*) : 5×3=15
 - a) Describe the historical significance of Ashokan inscriptions.
 - b) Write a note on the types of inscriptions used in ancient India.

- c) Discuss the methods used to determine dates in ancient Indian inscriptions.
- d) Explain the importance of chronology in reconstructing historical events.
- e) Write a detailed note on the Kharosthi script.
- f) Translate the following :

इयं धर्मलिपिः देवानां प्रियेण प्रियदर्शिना राज्ञा लेखिता । इह न कश्चित् जीवः
आलभ्य प्रहोतव्यः । न च समाजः कर्तव्यः । बहुकं हि दोषं पश्यति समाजे
देवानां प्रियः प्रियदर्शी राजा । सन्ति अपि एकत्याः समाजाः साधुमताः देवानां
प्रियस्य प्रियदर्शिनः राज्ञः ।

4. Answer the following (*any three*) : 10×3=30

- a) Discuss the importance of Epigraphy in reconstructing the history of ancient India.
- b) Discuss the origin and development of the Brahmi Script in India.
- c) Discuss the role of Palaeography in dating ancient manuscripts and inscriptions.
- d) Write an essay on the different eras used in Indian chronology.
- e) Describe the various chronological systems used in ancient India.
- f) Write an essay on the inscriptions of ancient Assam.

