

The Vedic Civilization

Chapter 4: The Vedic Civilization · Topic 1

Key Concept

The Vedic period is divided into Early Vedic (1500-1000 BCE) and Later Vedic (1000-600 BCE), named after the sacred texts called Vedas.

The Vedas, including the Rigveda, are among the oldest religious texts, containing hymns, rituals, and philosophical ideas.

Vedic society was organised around the varna system, initially based on occupation, which later became more rigid.

The Later Vedic period saw the rise of larger kingdoms, use of iron tools, and development of agriculture and settled life.

Quick Revision Notes

- Vedic period: Early (1500-1000 BCE), Later (1000-600 BCE).
- Named after sacred texts, the Vedas.
- Rigveda: among oldest religious texts.
- Contains hymns, rituals, philosophy.
- Society organised around varna system.
- Initially based on occupation.
- Later Vedic: larger kingdoms, iron tools.
- Agriculture, settled life developed.

Practice Questions

- 1 Discuss the two divisions of the Vedic period.
- 2 Research the Rigveda and its content.
- 3 Discuss the varna system's origins.
- 4 Discuss developments in the Later Vedic period.
- 5 Compare the Harappan and Vedic civilizations.
- 6 Explain the significance of the Vedas.