VIDEO 11 • SECTION 2.2 • MODULE 2 — ANCIENT BIHAR

Vedic Bihar — Kikata, Magadha and Videha

20 MCQs on this lecture • Answer key with explanations at the end • Attempt all questions first, then check

Q1. The Rigveda mentions the Kikatas and their chief:
(a) Pramaganda
(b) Jarasandha
(c) Janaka
(d) Videgha Mathava

Q2. The Kikatas of the Rigveda are generally identified with the region of:
(a) Videha
(b) Magadha
(c) Anga
(d) Kosala

Q3. Which Veda names the Magadhas and Angas as distant eastern peoples?
(a) Rigveda
(b) Samaveda
(c) Atharvaveda
(d) Yajurveda

Q4. Later Vedic texts speak of people outside Vedic ritual in connection with Magadha. They were called:
(a) Kikatas
(b) Nishadas
(c) Dasas
(d) Vratyas

Q5. In the Mahabharata, Jarasandha belonged to which dynasty of Magadha?
(a) Brihadratha
(b) Haryanka
(c) Shishunaga
(d) Nanda

Q6. Jarasandha's capital Girivraja is the present-day:
(a) Patna
(b) Rajgir
(c) Gaya
(d) Bihar Sharif

Q7. The story of Videgha Mathava carrying the sacred fire eastward is told in the:

(a) Rigveda
(b) Brihadaranyaka Upanishad
(c) Shatapatha Brahmana
(d) Ramayana

Q8. Videgha Mathava was guided by his priest:

(a) Yajnavalkya
(b) Ashtavakra
(c) Vishvamitra
(d) Gotama Rahugana

Q9. The river Sadanira of the Shatapatha Brahmana is generally identified with the:

(a) Gandak
(b) Kosi
(c) Son
(d) Bagmati

Q10. The Videgha Mathava story records:

(a) The Aryan arrival in Punjab
(b) The eastward spread of Vedic settlement and farming into north Bihar
(c) The founding of Pataliputra
(d) The fall of Magadha

Q11. Videha's capital Mithila is identified with:

(a) Darbhanga town
(b) Sitamarhi
(c) Janakpur, now in Nepal
(d) Madhubani

Q12. The great debates of Janaka's court are recorded in the:

(a) Chandogya Upanishad
(b) Katha Upanishad
(c) Rigveda
(d) Brihadaranyaka Upanishad

Q13. The leading sage of Janaka's court was:

(a) Yajnavalkya
(b) Ashtavakra
(c) Gotama Rahugana
(d) Vasishtha

Q14. Yajnavalkya's famous dialogue on immortality was with his wife:

(a) Gargi
(b) Maitreyi
(c) Sita
(d) Ubhaya Bharati

Q15. The woman philosopher who questioned Yajnavalkya boldly in Janaka's assembly was:

(a) Maitreyi
(b) Lopamudra
(c) Gargi Vachaknavi
(d) Apala

Q16. The Ashtavakra Gita is a dialogue between Ashtavakra and:

(a) Yajnavalkya
(b) Rama
(c) Gargi
(d) Janaka

Q17. Which name of Sita does NOT come from her link with Janaka or Videha?

(a) Bhumija
(b) Janaki
(c) Vaidehi
(d) Maithili

Q18. Which district is traditionally linked to the birth of Sita?

(a) Darbhanga
(b) Sitamarhi
(c) Madhubani
(d) West Champaran

Q19. Which statement is correct?

(a) Mithila today means only Janakpur town
(b) Kikata is identified with Videha
(c) Today 'Mithila' is the cultural region of north Bihar
(d) The Gargi debate is in the Chandogya Upanishad

Q20. Consider the following statements:
1. Vedic texts first showed Magadha in a low light.
2. Videgha Mathava crossed the Sadanira with the sacred fire.
3. Jarasandha's capital was Pataliputra.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

Answer Key

Q1	(a)	Q5	(a)	Q9	(a)	Q13	(a)	Q17	(a)
Q2	(b)	Q6	(b)	Q10	(b)	Q14	(b)	Q18	(b)
Q3	(c)	Q7	(c)	Q11	(c)	Q15	(c)	Q19	(c)
Q4	(d)	Q8	(d)	Q12	(d)	Q16	(d)	Q20	(d)

Explanations

Q1. Answer: (a) Pramaganda
Pramaganda. Kikata is generally identified with Magadha (south Bihar).

Q2. Answer: (b) Magadha
Magadha — described as people who did not perform Vedic sacrifices.

Q3. Answer: (c) Atharvaveda
Atharvaveda.

Q4. Answer: (d) Vratyas
Vratyas.

Q5. Answer: (a) Brihadratha
Brihadratha dynasty; capital Girivraja (Rajgir).

Q6. Answer: (b) Rajgir
Rajgir.

Q7. Answer: (c) Shatapatha Brahmana
Shatapatha Brahmana.

Q8. Answer: (d) Gotama Rahugana
Gotama Rahugana; the fire was Agni Vaishvanara.

Q9. Answer: (a) Gandak
Generally identified with the Gandak — write 'generally identified'.

Q10. Answer: (b) The eastward spread of Vedic settlement and farming into north Bihar
The land beyond the Sadanira was burnt clear and settled — this became Videha.

Q11. Answer: (c) Janakpur, now in Nepal
Janakpur (Nepal), just across the Bihar border — not Darbhanga town.

Q12. Answer: (d) Brihadaranyaka Upanishad
Brihadaranyaka Upanishad — not the Chandogya.

Q13. Answer: (a) Yajnavalkya
Yajnavalkya; the law-book Yajnavalkya Smriti bears his name.

Q14. Answer: (b) Maitreyi
Maitreyi.

Q15. Answer: (c) Gargi Vachaknavi
Gargi Vachaknavi — a symbol of women's learning in the Vedic age.

Q16. Answer: (d) Janaka
Janaka.

Q17. Answer: (a) Bhumija
Janaki, Vaidehi and Maithili come from Janaka, Videha and Mithila. Bhumija means 'born of the earth'.

Q18. Answer: (b) Sitamarhi
Sitamarhi.

Q19. Answer: (c) Today 'Mithila' is the cultural region of north Bihar
Mithila today = cultural region (Darbhanga, Madhubani, Sitamarhi, etc.).

Q20. Answer: (d) 1 and 2 only
3 is wrong — Jarasandha's capital was Girivraja (Rajgir).

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