

Detailed Syllabus

For the post of Research Assistant (Numismatics) in Archaeology Department

(Cat.No: 131/2021)

Module 1 (Marks : 10)

Beginnings of coinage in history—earliest centres where coinage appeared—Historian's reliance on numismatics and allied disciplines--Use of numismatic studies in history--determining the age of coins -- Origins of coinage –methods of minting of coins- conditions of coins over time—methods of conserving and cleaning coins after excavation—interpretation of coins--colonial archaeology—Asiatic Society of Bengal—Study of coins by William Jones and Charles Wilkins—contributions of James Prinsep, Charles Masson, Alexander Cunningham, Sir Walter Elliot etc in numismatic studies-----Indian historians and study of coins – A S Altekar, P L Gupta, D D Kosambi etc--

Module 2 (Marks : 10)

Coins of the Mahajanapadas, Mauryas, Satavahanas, Sungas, Kanvas, Indo-Greeks, Indo-Scythians, Indo-Parthians, Kushans, early historic Tamil kings, Guptas, Harsha, Huns, Kadambas, Pallavas, Chalukyas, Kidara Kushan coinage---scripts used in the earliest coins in India—Greek coins—punch marked coins—Brahmi and Kharoshti scripts—metals used--symbols in coins --trade and coinage-- cast coins, die struck coins, port trait coins and gold coins—Roman coins—sites of coin hoards in south India

Module 3 (Marks : 10)

Legends on coins --Nature of depiction of eras --kings on coins – Vikrama Era, Saka era, Gupta Era, Kollam era— Gupta kings on coins--Regional scripts –scripts evolved from Brahmi—Sharada, Nagari, Tamil Brahmi, Grantha –Indo-Sassanid, Rasthrakuta, Pratihara, Pala, western Chalukya, Pandya, Chera, Hoysala, and Yadava coins.

Module 4 (Marks : 10)

Nature of Ghaznavid coinage—Sultanate coins—Khaljis-Thuglaqs—Sayyids-Lodis—Suri coins—Arabic script on the coins--coins issued during the period of Babur, Akbar, Jahangir, Shajahan and Aurangzeb, Nadir Shah—Coins of Shah Alam I--Vijayanagar coins--Kangra coins—Coins of the Nayaks--Portrait coins of Akbar and Jahangir--coins issued by Nur Jahan

Module 5 (Marks : 10)

European coins—Portuguese, Danish, Dutch, French, coins --English East India Company's coins –Maratha coins—--Coins of the Nizam—Kolhapur and Satara coins--coins of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan—coins of Cochin, and Travancore--British Indian coins—Introduction of paper money—Coins and currencies in post-independent Indian times.

Module VI: Basics of Archaeology and Archaeology of Kerala (Marks : 10)

Basics of Archaeology and Practices in the discipline - History of Archaeology in India and Kerala, and growth of archaeology as an independent discipline. Archaeological Data Retrieval- Exploration Techniques, Excavation Techniques, Experimental Archaeology, Ethno-archaeology, Ethnography, Simulation, Recording Methods, Absolute and Relative Dating methods, Conservation and preservation of archaeological remains.

Summary of Prehistoric and Iron Age Cultures of Kerala- Excavations in Kerala – Pattanam, Vizhinjam, Kottappuram fort, Porkalam, Machad, Pazhayannur, Mangadu, and Enadimangalam.

Module VII: Characteristics of Indian Coinage (Marks : 10)

Origin and antiquity of coinage in India- Vedic and other literary references to coinage, early material evidence of coinage, Barter system, Theories related to the origin of coinage in India, and Early specimens of coins.

General features of coinage in ancient India- Nature of coinage, metal, types of symbols, and nature of issuing coins, authority, and circulation.

Importance of Numismatics for the study of history – Information pertaining to dynastic history, chronology and genealogy, socio-cultural, political, religious and economic aspects.

Scripts and languages of coin legends.

Art and iconography of coin depictions- artistic representations of images and symbols, and representation of deities and their identification features.

Module VIII: Coin as a material (Marks : 10)

Coin Manufacturing techniques- Punch Marking method, Casting method and Die-striking method.

Ancient Indian Mints.

Metrology and Coin Denominations.

Metallurgy of coins.

Legends, Symbols, Monograms and other devices on coins.

Conservation and preservation techniques of coins.

Museum display norms and protocols for coins.

Module IX: Indian Coinage- Dynastic specimens (Marks : 10)

Punch Marked coins, Cast coins, Local and Tribal coins, and Roman coins in India.

Dynastic Coinage: Satavahana coins, Indo-Greek coins, Kushana coins, Coins of Sakas, Coins of Pahlavas, Coins of Western Kshatrapa.

Imperial Gupta coins, Coins of Hunas, Maukharis and Pushpabhutis.

Chola, Pandya, and Chera coins.

Indo-Islamic coinage of Sultanates and Medieval Muslim rulers.

Module X: Kerala Coinage: (Marks : 10)

Roman coin hoards (Kerala), Punch Marked coins (Kerala), Chinese coins in Kerala, Venetian coins (Kerala), Coins issued by Colonial foreigners in Kerala, and coin finds from excavations and explorations.

Venad Coins, Travancore Coins, and other local coinages of Kerala.

Influences of coinage from other parts of India in the local coinage of Kerala.

Local names for coin types in Kerala (e.g. Kaliyugarayan panam, velli chakram)

Numismatic Research in Kerala- Scholars and their contributions. Ownership/possession status of coins in Kerala. Challenges of Numismatic research in Kerala.

NOTE: - It may be noted that apart from the topics detailed above, questions from other topics prescribed for the educational qualification of the post may also appear in the question paper. There is no undertaking that all the topics above may be covered in the question paper.