

AEEC-4
Evolution of Indian scripts
(12133904)

Max. Marks : (75+ 25 = 100)

Credits : Lectures 24 + Tutorials 12

[A] Course Objectives:

This course aims to acquaint students with the myth that Indians lacked knowledge of writing in ancient period. Available sources suggest that writing was mostly practiced on perishable material, so limited evidences are available to prove that practice of writing in India was widely known. Despite that Indians had relation with foreign countries there was a sleek chance that they borrowed any scripts from them.

A script develops from various types of symbols used to express writing. Indus valley script, a picto-ideographic script may have been developed as a grammatically perfect script in India. This section suggests to undergo research in linking proto Indian & ancient Indian Brahmi and Kharoshthi scripts.

Impact of time and space led the Brahmi to undergo variations. Their causes in changes in writing will be studied.

[B] Course Learning Outcomes:

Students willing to engage in archaeology can be enlightened about the importance and background of written material and utilize it in future.

Study of scripts are useful to evaluate and understand believes of prevailing contemporary multiple contents. After undergoing this course Students will be able utilize relevant information to develop capability to fix a date of an unknown writing, incidents, etc., with co-relating it to the available similar writing, and somewhat continuing incidents. Thus, it becomes helpful and useful for the students who are interested in pursuing advance study in archaeology.

[C] Contents:

Unit: I	Introduction to script	Credit : 06
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antiquity of writing in India • Sign & symbols - pre-scripts 	
Unit: II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Brāhmī and Kharoshthi Scripts 	Credits : 04
Unit: III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indus Valley script - Introduction 	Credits : 04
Unit: IV	Types/Kinds of the Brāhmī script by 400 A.D.	Credits : 02

Unit: V

- Transition to early modern Indian scripts

Credits: 04

- Causes of variation in the Brāhmī script

Credits : 04

[D] Suggested Books/Readings:

Compulsory Reading:

1. Buhler, G. : Indian Paleography, 1959
i. : On the origin of the Indian alphabet & numerals
2. Burnell, A.C. : Elements of South Indian Paleography, 1878.
3. Dani, A.H. : Indian Paleography, 1963
4. Verma, T.P. : Paleography of Brāhmī script in North India, 1971.

Additional Resources:.

1. गौ .ही .ओझा : भारतीय प्राचीन लिपिमाला
2. राजबली पाण्डेय : अशोक के अभिलेख, 1967
3. Diringer, David : The Alphabet (Reprint) 1962
4. Gelb, I. J. : A study of writing, 1963
5. Sircar, D.C. : Indian Epigraphy, 1965
6. Upasak, C.S. : History & Paleography of Mauryan Brāhmī script, 1960

[E] Teaching Learning Process

1. A variety of approaches to teaching-learning process, including lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, peer learning ,Group discussion, paper presentation, practicum and project-based learning, field-based learning in this course.
2. Visits to the museums for direct interaction with the script through charts will also be useful.
3. Teachers should explain terminology used and or related to the inscriptions. Merely translating language is unjust to the students and the subject. It is more useful to take students to the historically important sites, especially related to the inscriptions under-study.

[F] Weekly Plan

- Week 1 – Unit 1
 Week 2 – Unit 1
 Week 3 – Unit 1
 Week 4 – Unit 2
 Week 5 – Unit 3
 Week 6 – Unit 3
 Week 7 – Unit 4
 Week 8 – Unit 4
 Week 9 – Unit 5
 Week 10 – Unit 5
 Week 11 – Unit 6
 Week 12 – Unit 6

[G] Assessment :

I.	Basic Structure of Question Paper & Division of Marks	75
i	Long Questions -03 (All Units)	03x 10 = 30
ii.	Short notes- 05(All Units)	05 x 5 = 25
iii.	Short Answer Type Questions -13(Limit1-2Lines) (from all Units)	13x 1 = 13
iv.	Sanskrit Question-1	7
II	Internal Assessment (Project/Discussion/Assignment/ paper presentation/ Periodic tests etc.)	25

[H] Keywords :

Bāṇa, Kadambari, Śukanāsopadeśa, Daṇḍin, Dashakumarcharit, Viśrutacaritam, Subandhu, Ambikādatta, Hitopadeśa, Vetālapañcavimśatikā, Simhāsanadvātrimśikā, Puruṣaparīkṣā, Śukasaptati etc.