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Q93

Which one of the following statements about Sangam literature in ancient South India is correct? (a) Sangam poems are devoid of any reference to material culture. (b) The social classification of Varna was known to Sangam poets. (c) Sangam poems have no reference to warrior ethic. (d) Sangam literature refers to magical forces as irrational. Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2022 · General Studies · 2 marks · Art and Culture

Indian art, architecture, culture - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

No material culture. Sangam is full of pots, cloth, ports and ploughs.

(b) Official key

Varna was known to Sangam poets. The keyed statement.

(c)

No warrior ethic. Puram poetry is war and honour.

(d)

Magical forces as irrational. Sangam does not dismiss the sacred that way.

Summary

Official key is (b). Sangam poems know a fourfold social classification akin to varna, even as **tinai** and clan matter more on the ground. They are rich in material life and warrior ethic, and they do not treat the sacred as mere irrational magic.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Puram / akam

War-public vs love-interior Sangam genres.

Tinai

Five landscapes; ecological-poetic convention.