



**BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI – 110034**  
**Class XII – HISTORY**

**Theme -3:- KINSHIP, CASTE AND CLASS**

Dear Students

Welcome to the new academic session 2020-21!

Before you go through this e-lesson, ensure that you have read the lesson 'Bricks, Beads and Bones'. Mark the historical / technical words, find out their meanings and note them in your history register. The various You Tube links provided in the lesson will help in comprehending the concepts, and make it easier for you.

Happy Learning

**I. INTRODUCTION –**

- There were several changes in economic a political life between 600 BCE and 600 CE. Some of these changes influenced societies as well.
- The extension of agriculture into forested areas transformed the lives of forest dwellers; craft specialists often emerged as distinct social groups; the unequal distribution of wealth sharpened social differences.
- Historians often use textual traditions to understand these processes.
- Some texts lay down norms of social behaviour; others describe and occasionally comment on a wide range of social situations and practices.
- In focusing on the Mahabharata, a colossal epic running in its present form into over 100,000 verses with depictions of a wide range of social categories and situations, we draw on one of the richest texts of the subcontinent.

**II. TOPICS –**

- Each topic has been converted into a mind map. It is a visual organization and representation of knowledge.
- There are 7 mind maps in all.

**III. FURTHER REFERENCE –**

**Kindly watch the following videos for a better understanding.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mv7gHGFMt5s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTcdpRK7BJs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiOz6ceY2H8>

**III. EXPLANATION – MIND MAPS**

*Kindly see the attachment*

#### IV. ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS –

*[To be attempted in the History register.]*

*[Answer in 100-150 words]*

1. Explain why patriliney may have been particularly important among elite families.
2. Discuss whether kings in early states were invariably Kshatriyas.

**[Answer in 500 words]**

3. Discuss whether the Mahabharata could have been the work of a single author.
4. How important were gender differences in early societies? Give reasons for your answer.
5. Discuss the evidence that suggests that Brahmanical prescriptions about kinship and marriage were not universally followed.