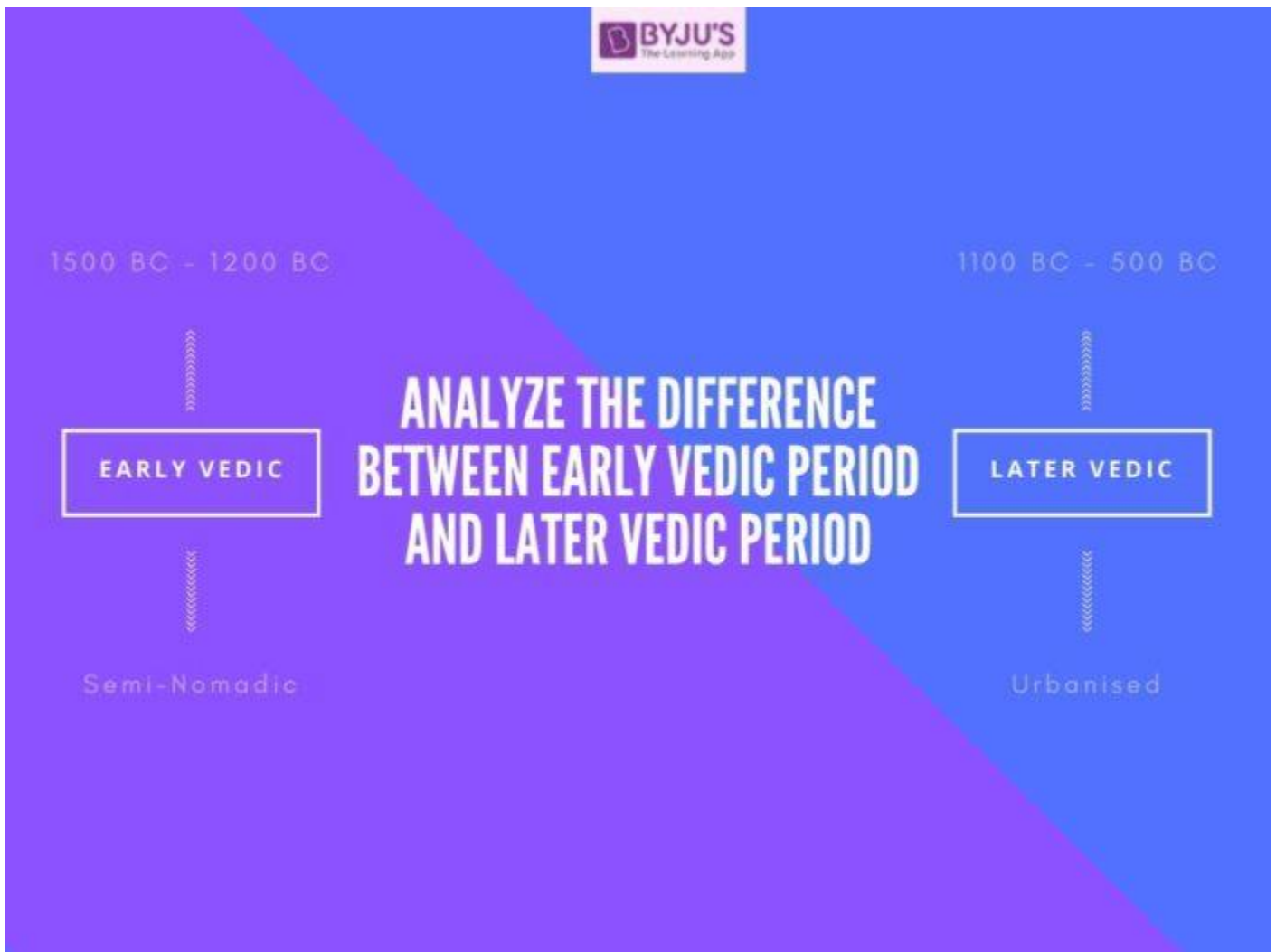


Difference between Early Vedic Period and Later Vedic Period

The Vedic Age was a significant era in Ancient Indian History. As such, the questions from this topic have always been featured in the history segment of the [UPSC Prelims](#).

The Vedic age itself is divided into the Early Vedic Period (1500 – 1000 BCE) and Later Vedic Period (1000 – 600 BCE)*. The reason being that society underwent drastic changes from the time the first Vedas were written to the appearance of later Vedic scriptures.



This article will provide details about the transformation of society in the Early and Later Vedic Ages for the [IAS Exam](#).

In the table below we have given in detail the differences between the Early Vedic Period and Later Vedic Period

Differences Between Early Vedic Age and Later Vedic Age

Early Vedic Period	Later Vedic Period
The caste system was flexible and based on profession rather than birth	The caste system became more rigid in this period with birth being the main criteria
There was no concept of Shudra or untouchables	Shudras became a mainstay in the Later Vedic period. Their sole function was to serve those of the upper-castes
Women were allowed a greater degree of freedom in this period. They were allowed to participate in the political process of the time to a certain extent	Women were restricted from their participation in society by being relegated to subordinate and docile roles
Kingship was fluid as the kings were elected for a fixed period by the local assembly known as <i>Samiti</i>	As society became more urbanized in this period, the need for stable leadership was realized. Thus the absolute rule of the Kings became more and more prominent
Early Vedic society was pastoralist and semi-nomadic in nature	Society became more settled in nature. It became centred around agriculture in general
In the Early Vedic Period, the barter system was more prevalent with little to no monetary value transaction being part of the exchange	Although the barter system was still in practice, it was largely replaced by the exchange of gold and silver coins known as <i>Krishnala</i>
Rigveda. This text is cited as the earliest text from this period	Yajurveda. Samaveda Atharvaveda

* The dates of Early Vedic and Later Vedic Periods are sourced from NIOS.

To know more in detail about the Vedic Civilization and the Vedas from both the time periods, you can check the links given below:

- [Rig Veda](#)
- [Vedic Civilization](#)
- [Types of Vedas](#)

You can find more [Difference Between Articles](#), by visiting the linked page

Candidates can also check the links given below to know more about other related topics. These linked articles can help will also help UPSC Aspirant with the History segment of the exam.