

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 12th



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Class : 12th
Subject : History
Chapter : 2
Chapter Name : Kings, Farmers And Towns

Q1 What are the different explanations offered by early writers and present-day historians for the growth of Magadhan power?

Answer. Missing

Page : 31 , Block Name : Discuss

Q2 Read the excerpts from Megasthenes and the Arthashastra (Sources 1 and 2). To what extent do you think these texts are useful in reconstructing a history of Mauryan administration?

Answer. Missing

Page : 34 , Block Name : Discuss

Q3 Why do you think kings claimed divine status?

Answer. Missing

Page : 37 , Block Name : Discuss

Q4 Find out whether plough agriculture, irrigation and transplantation are prevalent in your state. If not, are there any alternative systems in use?

Answer. Missing

Page : 41 , Block Name : Discuss

Q5 What are the transactions involved in trade? Which of these transactions are apparent from the sources mentioned? Are there any that are not evident from the sources?

Answer. Missing

Page : 45 , Block Name : Discuss

Q6 Discuss the location of Asokan inscriptions. Do you notice any patterns?

Answer. Missing

Page : 48 , Block Name : Discuss

Q1 Discuss the evidence of craft production in Early Historic cities. In what ways is this different from the evidence from Harappan cities?

Answer. Wide spread and deep excavations in the early historic towns have not been possible due to the fact that these towns are still inhabited. In Harappan Civilisation, we have been fortunate enough that excavations have taken place widespread. Despite this shortcoming, we have found many artefacts in the historic towns. These throw light on the craftsmanship of those days. There are other evidences too, that throw light on the craftsmanship of those days. The salient features of such evidences are as follows:

1. From the sights the fine pottery bowls and dishes have been found. They are glossy too and we call them Northern Black Polished Ware It looks they were used by the rich people.
2. There have also been evidence of ornaments, tools, weapons, vessels and figurines. There are a wide range of items made of gold, silver, copper, bronze, ivory, glass, shell and terracotta.
3. The donor inscription tells who all lived in towns in terms of professionals and craftsmen. It included washer men, weaver, scribes, carpenters, goldsmith, ironsmith, etc. It is notable in Harappan towns there are no evidences of iron use.

Page : 51 , Block Name : Answer In 100-150 Words

Q2 Describe the salient features of mahajanapadas.

Answer. Mahajanapadas were states that existed between 6th and 4th BC centuries. Buddhist and Jain texts mention sixteen Mahajanapadas. The name of all these are not uniform in all texts but some names are common and uniform which means they were the powerful ones. These Mahajanapadas are Vajji, Magadha, Kaushal, Kuru, Panchal, and Gandhan The important features of the Mahajanapadas are as follows.

- 1) Most of the Mahajanapadas were ruled by powerful kings. However, there were some Mahajanapadas where rule was in the hands of people, we call them republics. In some states the king and the subject had collective control on the economic resources of the state.
- 2) Every Mahajanapadas had its own capital. The capital normally would be surrounded by fort. The fortification of the capital was needed for protection and economic resources.
- 3) It was around 6th Century BC, Brahmins began to compile scripture called "Dharmashastra" which states rules of morality including that of monarch. Herein it was mentioned that the king should be Kshatriya.
- 4) The main job of the king was collection of taxes from farmers, traders, craftsmen. They also accepted donations.
- 5) It was considered fair to plunder neighbouring countries for riches.
- 6) Gradually Mahajanapadas began to have full time army and officials. Soldiers were from the ranks of farmers.

Q3 How do historians reconstruct the lives of ordinary people?

Answer. Ordinary people could not leave behind any historical evidence about their life. Hence, the historians use a variety of sources to reconstruct the lives of the common people during the ancient times. The important sources are:

1. Remains of houses and pottery give an idea of the life of common men.
2. Some inscriptions and scriptures talk about the relation between monarchs and the subject. It talks about taxes and happiness and unhappiness of the common men.
3. Changing tools of craftsmen and farmers talk about the lifestyle of the people.
4. Historians also depend upon folklores to reconstruct the lives of the people during the ancient times.

Page : 51 , Block Name : Answer In 100-150 Words

Q4 Compare and contrast the list of things given to the Pandyan chief (Source 3) with those produced in the village of Danguna (Source 8). Do you notice any similarities or differences?

Answer. The gifts given to Pandya chief included things like ivory, fragrant wood, honey, sandalwood, pepper, flowers, etc. in additions to many birds and animals were also given as gifts. On the contrary, items produced in the village of Danguda included grass, skin of animals, flower salt and other minerals, etc. In both the lists the only common item is flower.

Page : 51 , Block Name : Answer In 100-150 Words

Q5 List some of the problems faced by epigraphists.

Answer. The specialists who study inscriptions are called Epigraphists. Some of the important problems they encounter when they try to decipher inscriptions are as follows:

1. Many of the inscriptions are not found in proper shape, they are partly damaged, hence deciphering them becomes a knotty problem.
2. The inscriptions are written from the point of view of those who have created it. Hence, in order to get an impartial understanding, we need to go beyond the written words, get into its interpretations.
3. Many of the inscriptions have descriptions in symbolic words. Hence deciphering them have become difficult.
4. Sometimes the inscriptions are engrafted in very light colors. Hence, deciphering them becomes difficult.

Page : 51 , Block Name : Answer In 100-150 Words

Q6 Discuss the main features of Mauryan administration. Which of these elements are evident in the Asokan inscriptions that you have studied?

Answer. Asokan inscriptions mention all the main features of the administration of the Mauryan Empire. Thus, the features of the administration are evident in the inscriptions of the Asokan age. The important features of the same are as follow:

1. The capital of the Mauryan Empire was Pataliputra. Apart from the capital there were four other centres of political power in the empire. They were Taxila, Ujjaini, Tosali and Suvarnagiri.
2. Committee and subcommittees were formed to run the administration and safety of boundaries. Megasthenes has mentioned that there were one committee and six sub-committees. The six subcommittees and their areas of activities are as follows:
 - (i) The first sub committee looked after navy.
 - (ii) The second sub committee looked after transport and communications.
 - (iii) The third sub committee looked after infantry
 - (iv) The fourth sub committee had the responsibility of horses.
 - (v) The fifth had the responsibility of chariots.
 - (vi) The sixth had the responsibility of elephants.
3. Strong network of roads and communications were established. It is notable that no large empire can be maintained in the absence of the same.
4. Asoka made an attempt to keep the empire united by the philosophy of Dhamma. Dhamma are nothing but moral principles that actuated people towards good conducts. Special officers called Dhamma Mahamtras were appointed to propagate Dhamma. In fact Romila Thapar has made it the most important element of the Asokan state's governing principle.

Page : 52 , Block Name : Write A Short Essay (About 500 Words) On The Following

Q7 This is a statement made by one of the best-known epigraphists of the twentieth century, D.C. Sircar: "There is no aspect of life, culture and activities of the Indians that is not reflected in inscriptions." Discuss.

Answer. The statement of eminent epigraphist DC Sircar has highlighted the importance of inscription as single source of information that touch upon all areas of our life Following are the main areas we get information about from the inscriptions

1. Determination of states boundaries: the inscriptions were carved in the territories of the kings and even more important is not often close to the borders. This help us find out boundaries of kingdoms and their expansions there.
2. Names of Kings: The names of the kings are mentioned in the inscriptions. The names and titles used by Asoka the Great got revealed through inscriptions only.
3. Historic events: The important historical events are mentioned in the inscriptions. The best example is how the event of the Kalinga war is mentioned in the inscription and how Asoka takes to Dhamma.
4. Information about conduct of Kings: Inscriptions describe the conduct and character of the kings quite well. It is through the inscriptions only that we know Asoka worked for the welfare of the masses.
5. Information about administration: Inscriptions gave information about administration. It is through the inscription. We know that Asoka appointed his son as a Viceroy.
6. Land settlement and Taxes: inscriptions mention how land were granted or gifted. It also talks about various taxes imposed by the ruler. There is hardly any area of governance of our life that is not mentioned in the inscriptions. Hence, we are inclined to agree with D.C. Sircar who says, "T reflected in the inscriptions."

Page : 52 , Block Name : Write A Short Essay (About 500 Words) On The Following

Q8 Discuss the notions of kingship that developed in the post-Mauryan period.

Answer. In the post-Mauryan age, the idea of kingship got associated with divine theory of state. Now, the monarchs began to talk about divine sanction to rule the people. Kushan rulers propagated the idea of the same at the unprecedented scale. They ruled from central Asia to western India. We can discuss the kingship based on the dynasties.

1. Kushan Kings: Kushan Kings called themselves Devputra and hence, godly status. They built great statues of themselves in temples.
2. Gupta Rulers: Second development of kingship is found during Gupta dynasty. It was a period of large-sized states. Such states were dependent on Samantas who sometimes became powerful enough to usurp the power of kings too.
3. Literature, coins and inscriptions helped us in creating history of those days. Very often poets would describe the monarch often to praise them but giving insight into the history and kingship too. A good example is of Harisena who praised Samudragupta, the great Gupta ruler.

Page : 52 , Block Name : Write A Short Essay (About 500 Words) On The Following

Q9 To what extent were agricultural practices transformed in the period under consideration?

Answer. The demand for taxes increased in the post 600 BC. In order to meet the demand of excessive taxes, without taking lesser produce, forced the farmers to increase productivity. This resulted in the use of new tools and practices of agriculture. The important ones are as follows:

1. Use of plough: Ploughs became commonplace. They were hardly heard of in the past. The use of ploughs began in the Ganga and Cauvery basins. In places where rain was abundant, the plough was used with iron tip. This increased the paddy production manifold.
2. Use of spade: Another tool that changed the system of agriculture is spade. Those farmers who lived in the areas of harsh land used spade.
3. Artificial Irrigation: Apart from rainfall, the farmers now began to look at artificial form of irrigation. This prompted farmers to build wells, ponds, and - canals often collectively. This increased the agricultural production. The production increased due to new technology and tools. This created a new strata in the society. In the Buddhist literature, there is a description of small and big farmers. They were called Grihpatas. Similar description is given in the Tamil literature too. The position of village head was often hereditary. In such a situation the ownership of land became very important.

Page : 52 , Block Name : Write A Short Essay (About 500 Words) On The Following

Q10 Compare Maps 1 and 2, and list the mahajanapadas that might have been included in the Mauryan Empire. Are any Asokan inscriptions found in these areas?

Answer. DIY

Page : 52 , Block Name : Map Work

Q11 Collect newspapers for one month. Cut and paste all the statements made by government officials about public works. Note what the reports say about the resources required for such projects, how the resources are mobilised and the objective of the project. Who issues these statements, and how and why are they communicated? Compare and contrast these with the evidence from inscriptions discussed in this chapter. What are the similarities and differences that you notice?

Answer. DIY

Page : 52 , Block Name : Project (Any One)

Q12 Collect five different kinds of currency notes and coins in circulation today. For each one of these, describe what you see on the obverse and the reverse (the front and the back). Prepare a report on the common features as well as the differences in terms of pictures, scripts and languages, size, shape and any other element that you find significant. Compare these with the coins shown in this chapter, discussing the materials used, the techniques of minting, the visual symbols and their significance and the possible functions that coins may have had.

Answer. DIY

Page : 52 , Block Name : Project (Any One)

Class : 12th

Subject : History

Chapter : 2

Chapter Name : Early States and Economies

Q1 Discuss the evidence of craft production in Early Historic cities. In what ways is this different from the evidence from Harappan cities?

Answer. It is difficult to conduct extensive excavations at most of the sites because people live in these areas even today. In Harappan cities excavations were comparatively easy. A wide variety of artefacts have been recovered from them which throws a great deal of light on the craftsmanship of those days. The evidence of craft production include fine pottery bowls and dishes, with a glossy finish, known as Northern Black Polished Ware, probably used by rich people, and ornaments, tools, weapons, vessels, figurines, made of a wide range of materials like gold, silver, copper, bronze, ivory, glass, shell and terracotta.

The evidence were different in the following ways :

- The craftsmen used a variety of iron tools to meet the growing demands but there was no use of iron tools in Harappan cities.
- There was no mention of the use of coins during the Harappan civilization.

Page : 51 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q2 Describe the salient features of mahajanapadas.

Answer. The first mahajanapada existed between sixth and fourth BCE. Early Buddhist and Jaina texts mention that there were sixteen states known as Mahajanapadas. Some of which are Vajji, Magadha, Koshala, Kuru, Panchala, Avanti, and Gandhara. Magadha was the first and the most powerful mahajanapadas of all.

The salient features of Mahajanapadas are :

- Mostly the mahajanapadas were ruled by kings but some of the ganas or sanghas were ruled by a number of men, often collectively called Rajas.
- Each of the mahajanapada had a capital city, which was generally fortified.
- They also maintained armies. Huge resources were required to maintain these mahajanapadas. These resources were procured from the cultivators, traders and artisans in the form of taxes.
- Brahmanas began to compose Sanskrit texts known as "Dharmasutras." These Dharmasutras laid down norms for rulers as well as for other social categories.
- The rulers used to collect taxes and tributes from traders and artisans.

Page : 51 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q3 How do historians reconstruct the lives of ordinary people?

Answer. Historians have used a variety of sources to reconstruct the lives of ordinary people. Some of these sources are :

- Contemporary works such as the account of Megasthenes, Arthashastra, parts of which were composed by Chanakya, Puranic and Jaina literature as well as Sanskrit literary works.
- The inscriptions of various kingdoms.
- Short votive inscriptions were also found in a number of cities. These mention the name of the donor, and sometimes specify his/her occupation as well. They tell us about the people who lived in towns : washing folk, weavers, scribes, carpenters, potters, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, officials, religious teachers, merchants and kings.
- The availability of various food items reveal the eating habits of the people.
- Various crafts, potteries and tools reveal the purposes for which they were used.

All the above mentioned sources provided the historians a deep insight into the achievements and the activities carried out by the ordinary people. And through the contemporary works we get to know about the administering style that existed during those times.

Page : 51 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q4 Compare and contrast the list of things given to the Pandyan chief (Source 3) with those produced in the village of Danguna (Source 8). Do you notice any similarities or differences?

Answer. The list of things given to the Pandyan chief included things like ivory, fragrant wood, fans made of hair of deer, honey, sandalwood, red ochre, antimony, turmeric, cardamom, pepper, etc. They also brought coconuts, mangoes, medicinal plants, fruits, onions, sugarcane, flowers, areca nut, bananas, baby tigers, lions, elephants, monkeys, bears, deer, musk deer, foxes, peacocks, musk cats, wild cocks, speaking parrots, etc.

Things produced in the village of Danguna was grass, animal hides, charcoal, fermented liquors, salt, milk and flowers, minerals, etc.

There is only one similarity in both i.e flowers.

Page : 51 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q5 List some of the problems faced by epigraphists.

Answer. An epigraphist is a person who studies inscriptions. The problems faced by epigraphists are :

- Sometimes, the letters are very faintly engraved, and thus reconstructions are uncertain.
- Sometimes, the inscriptions are damaged or letters may be missing.
- It is not always easy to interpret the exact meaning of the words mentioned in the inscriptions, some of them may be place or time specific.
- The content of inscriptions many a times projects the perspective of the person or persons who have worked on them.

Page : 51 , Block Name : Short Answer

Q6 Discuss the main features of Mauryan administration. Which of these elements are evident in the Ashokan inscriptions that you have studied?

Answer. Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of the Mauryan empire. He extended control as far northwest as Afghanistan and Baluchistan.

The main features of the Mauryan administration are :

→ The capital of the Mauryan empire was Pataliputra and the provincial centres were Taxila, Ujjayini, Tosai and Suvarnagiri.

→ Administrative control was strongest in areas around the capital and the Provincial centres.

→ Megasthenes mentions a committee with six subcommittees for coordinating military activities. The subcommittees and their activities were :

® The first committee looked after the navy.

® The second committee managed transport and provisions.

® The third committee was responsible for foot-soldiers.

® The fourth committee was responsible for horses

® The fifth committee was responsible for chariots.

® The sixth committee was responsible for elephants.

→ Ashoka, the grandson of Chandragupta Maurya tried to hold his empire together by propagating Dhamma. Dhamma was the set of principles or moral code of conduct for the people. This according to him, would ensure the well-being of people in this world and the next. Special officers, known as dhamma-mahamatta, were appointed to spread the message of Dhamma.

→ There was a strong road network that allowed the movement of people and goods.

Ashoka inscribed his message to his subjects and officials on stone surfaces - natural rocks as well as pillars. He used the inscriptions to proclaim what he understood to be Dhamma. This included respect towards elders, generosity towards Brahmanas and those who renounced

worldly life, treating slaves and servants kindly, and respect for religions and traditions other than one's own.

Page : 52 , Block Name : Long Answer

Q7 This is a statement made by one of the best-known epigraphists of the twentieth century, D.C. Sircar : " There is no aspect of life, culture and activities of the Indians that is not reflected in inscriptions."

Answer. The statement made by the best-known epigraphist D.C. Sircar highlights and describes the importance of the inscriptions which explains all the aspects of life. The most important information that we get from the inscriptions are :

- We get to know about the kings and kingdoms that existed during those times.
- We get to know about the extent of the boundaries of those kingdoms.
- We get the information about the society and the people who existed during those times.
- We get the information about the behaviour of the rulers towards their subjects.
- We get to know about the religious beliefs and practices about people.
- We get to know about the wars that were fought during those times and the techniques used in fighting.
- We get to know about the socio-economic status of the people and various classes of people who existed during those times.
- We get the information about the relationship of the states with their neighbours.
- Inscriptions provides us with the information about the administration and the law and order of the States.
- Inscriptions provides us with the information of the land and the revenue systems.

Hence, we can conclude that the statement is aptly made by the eminent epigraphist.

Page : 52 , Block Name : Long Answer

Q8 Discuss the notions of kingship that developed in the post-Mauryan period.

Answer. The notions of kingship that developed in the post-Mauryan era was that of Divine kingship Theory. The kings began claiming high status by associating themselves with a variety of deities. The case of this kind of notion can easily be exemplified by:

→ "Divine Kings" : The Kushanas ruled over a vast kingdom extending from Central Asia to northwest India. Their history has been reconstructed from inscriptions and textual traditions. Colossal statues of Kushana rulers have been installed in a shrine at Mat near Mathura (Uttar Pradesh). Similar statues have been found in a shrine in Afghanistan as well. Many Kushana rulers also adopted the title 'devaputra or son of God'.

→ Larger States existed during the Gupta period which were dependent on "samantas", men who maintained themselves through local resources including control over land. They offered homage and provided military support to the rulers. Powerful "samantas" could become kings and weak rulers might find themselves being reduced to the position of subordination. History of the Gupta rulers have been reconstructed from literature, coins and inscriptions, including prashastis, composed in praise of kings. The prayaga prashasti (also known as Allahabad pillar inscription) composed in Sanskrit by Harishena, the court poet of Samudragupta, is an example of such notion.

→ Emergence of new kingdoms were seen. Satavahanas ruled over various parts of Western and Central India. The Shakas established their kingdoms in the north-western and Western parts of the subcontinent.

Page : 52 , Block Name : Long Answer

Q9 To what extent were agricultural practices transformed in the period under consideration?

Answer. The period from the sixth century BCE agricultural practices underwent a great transformation due to the growing demand for taxes. Many strategies were adopted that aimed at increasing the production so that the demands could be met. Some of the strategies are :

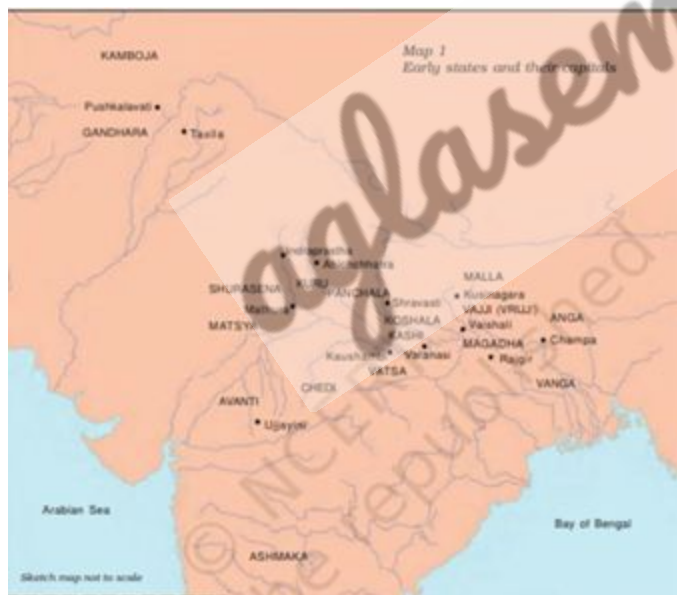
→ Shift to plough agriculture : This practice was spread in fertile alluvial river valleys such as those of the Ganga and the Kaveri. The iron-tipped ploughshare was used to turn the alluvial soil in areas which had high rainfall. Moreover, in some parts of the Ganga valley, production of paddy was dramatically increased by the introduction of transplantation, although this meant back-breaking work for the producer.

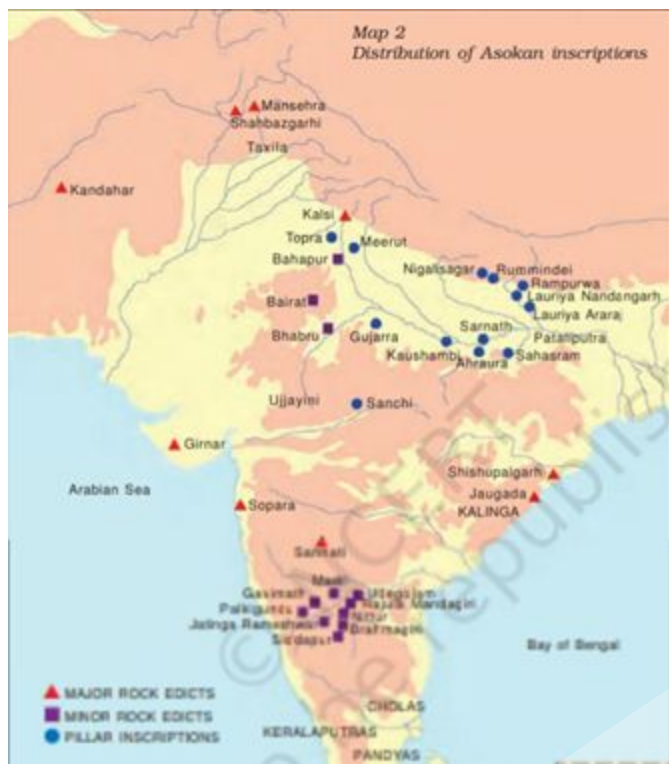
→ Practice of hoe agriculture : Cultivators in the areas which were semi-arid, like Punjab and Rajasthan and those living in hilly tracts in the north-eastern and central parts of the subcontinent practised it as it was much better suited to the terrain.

→ Use of irrigation : This strategy was adopted to increase the agricultural production. Irrigation was practised through wells, tanks and less commonly through canals.

Page : 52 , Block Name : Long Answer

Q10 Compare Map 1 and 2, and list the mahajanapadas that might have been included in the Mauryan Empire. Are any Ashokan inscriptions found in these areas?





Answer. All the mahajanapadas had been included in the Mauryan Empire.

Ashokan inscriptions have been found in

Ashmaka (Sannati), Gandhara (Kandahar), Magadha (Sarnath), Kuru (Meerut).

Page : 52 , Block Name : Map Work