

Chapter – 2

Kings, Farmers, and Towns

1 Marks Questions

Q1. Name the two sacrifices / performed by kings during the Vedic times?

Ans:.(a) Rajasuya Yagyna (b) Ashvamedha Yagnya

Q2. What is Megalith?

Ans: Megalith was an elaborate stone structure in central and south India in the first Millennium B.C These were kept on burials.

Q3: In the Mauryan inscriptions Piyadassi word is used for Which king?

Ans: Ashoka

Q4: Composed Sanskrit text by Brahmanas from 600 B.C.E onwards were known as by which name?

Ans: Dharmasutras.

Q5: Who describe the committee system in Mauryan administration?

Ans: Megasthenese.

Q6: How many subcommittees were found for military activities?

Ans: Six

Q7: How many major political centers in the Mauryan empire?

Ans: Five

Q8: Write the name of any two political centres of the Mauryan Empire?

Ans:

1. Pataliputra – capital

2. Taxila

3. Ujjayini

4. Tosali

5. Suvarnagiri// Any Two

Q9. Name the two sacrifices / performed by kings during the Vedic times?

Ans: (a) Rajasuya Yagya (b) Ashvamedha Yagya

Q10. What is Megalith?

Ans: Megalith was elaborate stone structure in central and south India in first Millennium B.C These were kept on burials.

Q11. Who deciphered Ashokan inscriptions?

Ans: James Princep.

Q12. which dynasty issued the first Gold coins?

Ans: Kushanas

Q13. Who was Gahapati?

Ans: The Owner, master or head of household.

Q14. Write any two sources of Mauryan History.

Ans:

- Arthashastra of Kautilya.
- Ashoka's Inscriptions.

Q15. Who were Dhamma Mahamatras?

Ans:

- Special Officer appointed by Ashoka
- Appointed to spread the message of Dhamma.

Q16. Who were Kushanas?

Ans:

- Important dynasty of ancient India.
- First to issue gold coins in India.

Q17. In which language and script Ashoka's scripts were written?

Ans:

- Language – Prakrit, Aramaic, Greek,
- Script – Brahmi, Greek, Aramaic, and Kharosthi

Q18. Why is six century B.C.E often considered as a major turning point in Indian History?

Ans:

- Emergence of early states, cities growing use of iron.
- Use of coin.
- New Religion- mainly Buddhism, Jainism.

Q19. What were Mahajanpadas? Name a few important Mahajanpadas?

Ans:

(i) Big states in 600 B.C in Northern India

(ii) Important Mahajanpada –

(a) Magadh (b) Koshala (c) Avanti (d) Panchal (e) Vajji (f) Gandhar

Q20. What is Manusmriti? What advice has been given to the king through it?

Ans:

- Legal book, written in Sanskrit, compiled between 200 B.C to 200 A.D.
- Advice to the king – Border security.

3 Marks Questions

Q21. The Inscription of land grants help us to understand rural society in ancient times “How?”

Ans:

- It shows the relationship between the state and the farmers.
- Hunters, fisherman, sculptors and nomadic farmer were not under the control of feudal lord.

Q22. List some of the problems faced by epigraphists?

Ans:

- Epigraphists – persons who study inscription
- Sometimes the words are engraved very lightly, so it is very hard to describe them.

- The inscriptions reflect the views of those who write them. So it may be biased

Q23 Describe briefly the sources for reconstructing the history of the Gupta rulers?

Ans:

- Literary sources
- Description by foreigners – e.g. Fahiyen.
- By Prashastis – Harisena prashastis in Prayag.
- With the help of coins issued by various Kings.
- With the help of Inscriptions.

Q.24 What is the significance of the inscription of Ashoka in the Indian History?

Ans:

- It helps to determine the extent of Ashoka's Empire.
- It tells about his religion and his thought
- It tells us about his policy
- This inscription throws light on the work done by Ashoka – These are the beautiful specimen of Mauryan Art.

Q.25. James Princep provided a new direction to Indian political history how?

Ans:

- He deciphered two scripts – Brahmi, Kharoshti.
- These inscriptions were used earliest inscriptions and coins
- He throws light on Mauryan ruler Ashoka
- The research of James Princep gave a new direction to Indian political history
- Scholars – (both Indian and Europeans) used the inscription and coins to draw information about the major dynasty.

Q26. What method did the Kushanas adopt to attain upper social status?

Ans:

- They represented themselves as a divine figure (Explanation).
- They prefixed the title Devaputra before their name which means the son of God.
- They show themselves as Divine Kings.
- They constructed their vast statues.

Q27. The Inscription of land grants help us to understand rural society in ancient times “How?”

Ans:

- It – shows the relationship between the state and the farmers.
- Hunters, fisherman, sculptors and nomadic farmer were not under the control.
- And many other such type of informations we have got.

Q.28. Why did the Kings or Powerful people donate land?

Ans:

- It was an expansion policy of Agriculture in new fields.
- Kings donated land to find new supporters.
- To spread their power and glory by donating land.

Q29. What factors were responsible for the Growth of Magadh from Mahajanpada to Powerful Empire?

Ans:

- Powerful ruler – Bimbisara and Ajatassattu, Mahapadma Nanda.
- Availability of Iron
- Fertile soil
- Availability of elephants in forest.
- Role of River – Ganga , Son, Punpun; important for communications

Q-30. Describe any five features of Mahajanpada?

Ans:

Ruled by Kings, some were ruled by Ganas or Sanghas.

- Fortified Capital
- Permanent Army
- Functions of King to collect taxes and Tributes from people – Dharmasutras laid down norms for Kings and other People.