



1. Make a list of the occupations of the people who lived within the Mauryan empire.

Ans: The Mauryan empire consisted of people who were merchants, officials, crafts persons, farmers and herders, etc.

2. Complete the following sentences:

(a) Officials collected..... from the area under the direct control of the ruler.

(b) Royal princes often went to the provinces as.....

(c) The Mauryan rulers tried to control..... and..... which were important for transport.

(d) People in forested regions provided the Mauryan officials with.....

Ans:

(a) taxes

(b) governors

(c) roads, rivers

(d) elephants, timber, honey and wax.

3. State whether true or false:

(a) Ujjain was the gateway to the north-west.

(b) Chandragupta's ideas were written down in the Arthashastra.

(c) Kalinga was the ancient name of Bengal

(d) Most Ashokan inscriptions are in the Brahmi script.

Ans:

(a) False

(b) True

(c) False

(d) True.

4. What were the problems that Ashoka wanted to solve by introducing 'dhamma'?

Ans: There were a number of problems in the empire that led Ashoka to introduce his 'dhamma'. People in the empire followed different religions, usually causing conflicts. Animal sacrifice was common. Slaves and servants were ill-treated by their masters. There were quarrels among civilians. To solve these problems, Ashoka introduced his 'dhamma'.

5. What were the means adopted by Ashoka to spread the message of 'dhamma'?

Ans: Ashoka appointed officials (called 'dhamma mahamatta') to go from place to place and tell people about 'dhamma'. Ashoka got his messages inscribed on rocks and pillars too, in a language called as Prakrit which was comprehensible to all. Messengers were also sent to other parts of the world.

6. Why do you think slaves and servants were ill-treated? Do you think the orders of the emperor would have improved their condition? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans: Slaves and servants were ill-treated because their masters felt superior to them. The masters treated them as animals. It was because of the old Varna system. The emperor's orders might have helped to some extent. Ashoka was a king who was loved by his subjects. Moreover his 'dhamma' was a realistic innovation.

7. Write a short paragraph explaining to Roshan why the lions are shown on our currency notes. List at least one other object on which you see them.

Ans: The lions are part of the Lion Capital in Samath. These lions are shown on our currency notes in honour of one of the greatest kings of India, Ashoka, who built the Capital. Moreover, on independence, the lion was recognized as the national animal, so the notes also showed the Lion Capital. Another object which has the lions are shown are the coins of our currency.

8. Suppose you had the power to inscribe your orders, what four commands would you like to issue?

Ans: To answer this question, use your own imagination and help from friends and teacher.

Some sample points:

- (i) Slavery be abolished.
- (ii) Animal sacrifice be stopped.
- (iii) People should not fight among themselves.
- (iv) No discrimination be practised based on gender, caste, creed, etc.

I. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Choose the correct option to complete the statements given below:

- (i) The founder of the Maurya empire was
 - (a) Ashoka
 - (b) Chandragupta
 - (c) Bimbisara
 - (d) Chanakya
- (ii) The capital of the Mauryan empire was.....
 - (a) Pataliputra
 - (b) Rajagriha
 - (c) Ujjain
 - (d) Taxila
- (iii) According to the Arthashastra, blankets of..... India were famous.
 - (a) north
 - (b) north-west
 - (c) south
 - (d) north-east
- (iv) The script used for inscription was
 - (a) Brahmi
 - (b) Prakrit
 - (c) Tamil
 - (d) Roman
- (v) Ashoka was a
 - (a) Hindu
 - (b) Jain
 - (c) Buddhist
 - (d) None of these.

Ans:

- (i) —(b), (ii) —(a), (iii) —(b), (iv) —(a), (v) —(c).

II. FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks with appropriate words to complete each sentence.

- (i) Ashoka was Chandragupta's
- (ii) Chanakya was 's minister.
- (iii) The Arthashastra was written by.....
- (iv) was the gateway to the northwest of the empire.
- (v) were sent as governors to other provincial capitals.
- (vi) South India was important for
- (vii) Ashoka gave up war after winning over.....
- (viii) 'Dhamma' is the Prakrit word for the Sanskrit word
- (ix) Ashoka appointed to spread 'dhamma'.

Ans:

- (i) grandson
- (ii) Chandragupta

- (iii) Chanakya
- (iv) Taxila
- (v) Royal princes
- (vi) gold and other precious stones
- (vii) Kalinga
- (viii) 'Dharma'
- (ix) officials.

III. TRUE/FALSE

State whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- (i) The lions on the currency notes come from the Rampurwa bull capital,
- (ii) Ashoka founded the Mauryan empire.
- (iii) Royal princes were sent as governors to provinces.
- (iv) Ashoka gave up war after losing in Kalinga.
- (v) Ashoka himself went from place to place to preach 'dhamma'.
- (vi) The 'dhamma' also reached other countries.

Ans:

- (i)—F, (ii)—F, (iii)—T, (iv)—F, (v)—F, (vi)—T.

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