

Ch 2

New Kings and Kingdoms

Question 1. Who were samantas?

A1. Big landlords or warrior chiefs who were subordinates to a king.

Question 2. Who were the subordinates to Chalukyas of Karnataka?

A2. Rashtrakutas

Question 3. In order to become a king, was it important to be born as a kshatriya?

A3. No, it was not important.

Question 4. Which famous caves have wall carving of Vishnu as Narasimha done?

A4. Ellora Caves.

Question 5. What were the terms used for taxes during Chola period?

A5. Vetti and Kadamai.

Question 6. Which ritual thought to lead to the ‘rebirth’ of Kshatriya?

A6. Hiranya-garbha

Question 7. What are Prashastis?

A7. Prashastis contain details that may not be literally true. But they tell us how rulers wanted to depict themselves – as valiant, victorious warriors, for example.

Question 8. Who was Kalhana?

A8. A long Sanskrit poem containing the history of kings who ruled over Kashmir(foe 12th century). It was composed by an author named Kalhana.

Question 9.What was Tripartite Struggle?

A9. Rulers belonging to the Gurjara-Pratihara, Rashtrakuta and Pala dynasties fought for control over Kanauj. Because there were three “parties” in this long drawn conflict, historians often describe it as the “tripartite struggle

Question 10. How did Rashtrakutas come to power?

A10. In the mid-eighth century, Dantidurga, a Rashtrakuta chief, overthrew his Chalukya overlord and performed a ritual called hiranya-garbha (literally, the golden womb). When this ritual was performed with the help of Brahmanas, it was thought to lead to the “rebirth” of the sacrificer as a Kshatriya, even if he was not one by birth

Question 11. Why kings built temples?

A11. The rulers tried to demonstrate their power and resources by building large temples. So, when they attacked one another’s kingdoms, they often chose to target temples, which were sometimes extremely rich.

Question 12. Who built the city of Thanjuvur?

A12. Vijayalaya, who belonged to the ancient chiefly family of the Cholas from Uraiyur, built the Thanjuvur city.

Question 13. Who held power in kaveri delta?

A13. Minor chiefly family known as the Muttaraiyar held power in the Kaveri delta.

Question 14. Who composed Prashastis?

A14. Prashastis were composed by learned Brahmanas, who occasionally helped in the administration.

Question 15. What are Nagarams?

A15. Associations of traders were known as Nagarams. They also occasionally performed administrative functions in towns.

Question 16. What were the functions of Samantas?

A16. • They were expected to bring gifts for their kings or overlords, be present at their courts and provide them with military support.

• After gaining power and wealth, they declared themselves to be MahaSamanta, Mahamandaleshvara (the great lord of a “circle” or region) and so on. Sometimes they asserted their independence from their overlords.

Question 17. Who were chahamanas?

A17. Chahamanas, came to be known as Chauhans, ruled over the region around Delhi and Ajmer.

Question 18.Name the best-known Chahamanas ruler.  
A18. Prithviraja III (1168-1192)

Question 19. When chahamanas attempted to expand their control over east and west they were opposed by?

A19. The Chalukyas of Gujarat and the Gahadavalas of western Uttar Pradesh.

Question 20. What were nadu?  
A20. Settlements of peasants were made with the spread of irrigation agriculture. Groups of such villages formed larger units called nadu.

Question 21. How did Chola temples become the nuclei of settlements?

Chola temples become the nuclei of settlements in the following way:-

- These were centres of craft production.

- Amongst the crafts associated with temples, the making of bronze images was the most distinctive.

-Temples were also endowed with land by rulers as well as by others.

- The produce of this land went to maintain all the specialists who worked at the temple and very often lived near it – priests, cooks, sweepers, musicians, dancers, etc.

-Temples were not only places of worship; they were the hub of economic, social and cultural life as well.

Question 22. Who ruled Afghanistan from 997 to 1030?

A22. Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni

Question 23. What is Kitab-al Hind ?  
A23. In finding out more about the people Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni conquered, he entrusted a scholar named al-Biruni to write an account of the subcontinent. This Arabic work came to be known as Kitab-al-Hind.

Question 24. Wealth Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni was mostly used for?  
A24. Much of the wealth Mahmud carried away was used to create a splendid capital city at Ghazni.

Question 25. Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni raided the subcontinent almost every year, what were his targets?

A25. His targets were wealthy temples, including that of Somnath, Gujarat.

Question 26. What were the requirements to become a member of sabhas?

A26. All those who wish to become members of the sabha must fulfil the following requirements

• They should be owners of land from which land revenue is collected.

• They should be between 35 and 70 years of age

• They should have their own homes.

• They should have knowledge of the Vedas. They should be well-versed in administrative matters and honest.

Question 27. How resources were collected by the kingdoms ruling in the 7th century?  
A27. - Resources were obtained from the peasants, cattle-keepers, artisans, who were often persuaded or compelled to surrender part of what they produced.

-Revenue was also collected from traders.

Question 28. Resources collected by the kingdoms ruling in the 7th century were used for?

A28. -Resources were used to finance the king’s establishment

-For the construction of temples and forts and to fight wars

This in turn expected to lead to the acquisition of wealth in the form of plunder, and access to land as well as trade routes

Question 29. Who were recruited for collecting revenues in 7th century kingdoms?

A29. The functionaries for collecting revenue were generally recruited from influential families, and positions were often hereditary. In many cases, close relatives of the king held these positions.

Question 30. How did agriculture developed in the Chola Empire?

A30. Although agriculture had developed earlier in other parts of Tamil Nadu, it was only from the fifth or sixth century that this area was opened up for large-scale cultivation.

• Forests had to be cleared in some regions; land had to be levelled in other areas.

• In the delta region embankments had to be built to prevent flooding and canals had to be constructed to carry water to the fields.

• In many areas two crops were grown in a year.

• In many cases it was necessary to water crops artificially.

• A variety of methods were used for irrigation. In some areas wells were dug. In other places huge tanks were constructed to collect rainwater

Question 31. Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni extended his control over?  
A23. He extended control over parts of Central Asia, Iran and the north-western part of the subcontinent.

Question 32. If anyone has been a member of sabha for last three years, was he allowed to become a member of any other committee?  
A26. No, that person cant not become a part of any other committee.