

KINGDOMS, KINGS AND AN EARLY REPUBLIC

Textbook Intext Questions

Page No. 55

- 1. Make a list of all those who would be present at the sacrifice. Which are the categories that are described in terms of their occupation?**

Sol. The people who would be present at the sacrifice are:

- (i) The king, his wives, sons and relatives.
- (ii) The charoiteer of king.
- (iii) The preists.
- (iv) The ordinary people, the vish or vaishya.
- (v) The other rajas.

The category of people who are describe in terms of their occupation are:

- (i) The king, who protected the people and looked after their welfare.
- (ii) The charioteer, who was his companion in his exploits,
- (iii) The priest, who performed the religious ceremony.

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- 1. Why did people oppose the system of Varnas?**

Sol. The priests divided people into four groups, called varnas. Acording to them, each varna had a different set of functions. The priests also said that these groups were decided on the basis of birth. Many people did not accept the system of varna laid down by the brahmins. Some people felt that there should be no differences amongst people based on occupation.

- 2. Is there a crop in this list that was not mentioned in copter 4?**

Sol. In chapter 4, Harappan grew wheat, rice, barley, pulses, peas, sesame, mustard and linseed. But in Chapter 6, people grew wheat, rice, barley, pulses, sugarcane, sesame and mustard. Sugarcane was not grown by Harappan people.

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- 1. List two ways in which rajas of the mahajanapadas were different from those mentioned in the Rigveda.**

Sol. Rajas of Mahajanapadas:

- (i) They became rajas by performing very big sacrifices where people accepted their supremacy.
- (ii) They had capital city, which were fortified. They also had large armies.

Rajas in Rigveda

- (i) The rulers was chosen by the jana i.e., the people.
- (ii) They did not have a capital city, places, armies. Also, they did not collect taxes.

- 2. What do you think would have been provided by hunters and gatherers?**

Sol. The hunters may have brought fresh meat everyday for the king. Gatherers brought forest produce like honey and nuts for the king.

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1. Can you think why kings would encourage these changes?

Sol. The king of this time encouraged these change i.e., use iron plough share and transplanting of paddy. It was because these two activities would led to the increased agricultural production.
As a result of this, kings would be able to abstract more tax from their men. In this way they shall be able to maintain large army that will be utilised in acquiring land, which could be used for agriculture.

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1. In what ways were these armies different from those described in the Rigveda?

Sol. In the Rigveda times there was no regular army. Most of the man took part in the war, whenever required. In the later period, the king had vast armies of food coilders, chariots and elephants.

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1. In what ways was the Vajji sangha different from the other mahajanapadas? Try and list at least three differences.

Sol.

Vajji Sangha	Other Mahajanapadas
(i) Vajji Sangha was under a different form of government known as gana or sangha.	(ii) They were governed by strong rulers.
(ii) In the saga there were many rulers, each was called a Raja.	(ii) There was a single powerful ruler.
(iii) They met in assemblies and decided what to do through discussion and debates.	(iii) The king took all the took the help of the decisions. May be he minister, but it was not binding on him.

Page No. 63

1. Do you think it was a true democracy?

Sol. In Athens, it was not true democracy.

IMAGINE

2. You are peeping through a crack in the walls of the assembly of Vaishali, where a meeting is in progress to discuss ways to deal with an attack by the king of Magadha. Describe what you might hear.

Ana. The jana or assembly in Vaishali is holding a meeting to discuss how to deal with an attack by the king of Magadha.

- (i) Who is going to lead the army?
- (ii) Who is in the total control of the army?
- (iii) Who will lead the elephants, horses and chariots, the different wings of the army?
- (iv) What strategy will be adopted in the direct combat?
- (v) Then will they meet to during the battle to discuss the situation?

Textbook Exercises

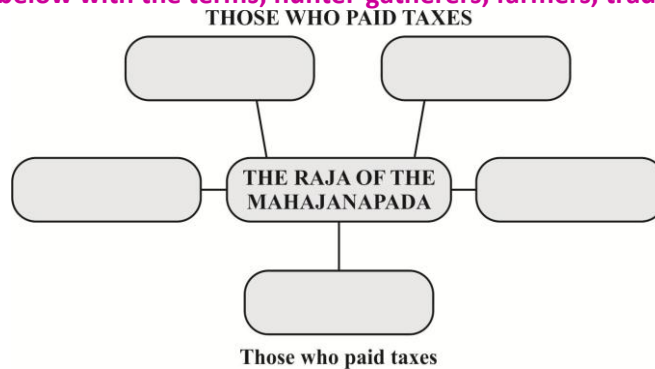
LET'S RECALL

1. State whether true or false:

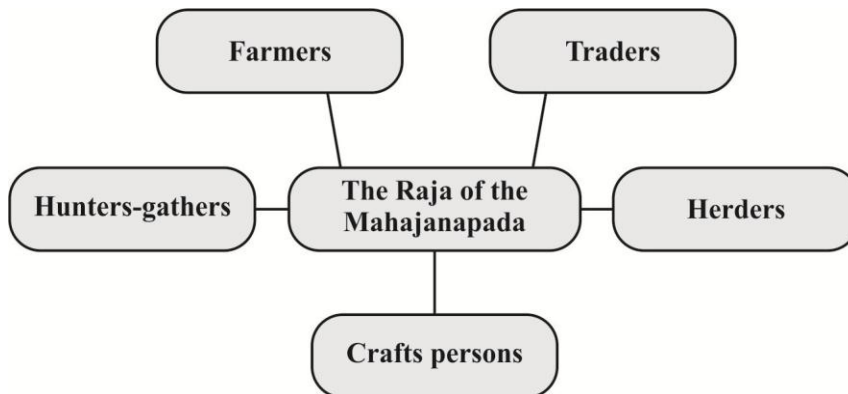
- (a) Rajas who let the ashvamedha horse pass through their lands were invited to the sacrifice.
- (b) The charioteer sprinkled sacred water on the king.
- (c) Archaeologists have found palaces in the settlements of the Janapadas.
- (d) Pots to store grain were made out of Painted Grey Ware.
- (e) Many cities in mahajanapadas were fortified.

Sol. (a) True, (b) False, (c) True, (d) True, (e) True.

2. Fill in the chart given below with the terms; hunter-gatherers, farmers, traders, crafts persons, herders.



Sol.



3. Who were the groups who could not participate in the assemblies of the ganas?

Sol. Shudras could not participate in the assemblies of the ganas.

LET'S DISCUSS

4. Why did the rajas of mahajanapadas build forts?

Sol. People need protection from the attack of the other kings. So the Raja of Mahajanapadas built forts.

5. In what ways are present-day elections different from the ways in which rulers were chosen in janapadas?

Sol. The small states were ruled by tribal rulers are called Janapadas. Each Jana has its own leader. He was known by the name of Raja. The position of Raja was hereditary He can be removed only when the situation demands.

But in present day, we elect our leader or M.P. or M.L.A. by electoral process. Their position is not hereditary and can belong to any caste. There are also so many national level party in present day. So different person of different part can be elected.

LET'S DO

6. Find the state in which you live in the political map on page 136 (of NCERT Textbook). Were there any janapadas in your state? If yes, name them. If not, name the janapadas that would have been the closest to your state, and mention whether they were to the east, west, north or south.

Sol. Do with the help of your subject teacher.

7. Find out whether any of the groups mentioned in answer 2 pay taxes today.

Sol. Yes, traders and crafts persons paid taxes even today.

8. Find out whether the groups mentioned in answer 3 have voting rights at present.

Sol. Yes, the group mentioned in answer of Q.3 have voting rights at present.