

Social Science

(History)(Chapter – 7) (Ashoka, The Emperor who gave up War)
(Class – VI)
Exercises

Let's recall

Question 1:

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

Answer 1:

List of the occupations within Mauryan empire are:

- Farming
- Herding
- Hunting-gathering
- Trading
- Handicrafts

Question 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 _____.

Answer 2:

- (a) Officials collected *tax* from the area under the direct control of the ruler.
- (b) Royal princes often went to the provinces as *governor*.
- (c) The Mauryan rulers tried to control *roads* and *rivers* which were important for transport.
- (d) People in forested regions provided the Mauryan officials with *elephants, timber, honey and wax*.

Question 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.

Answer 3:

- (a) Ujjain was the gateway to the north-west. **False**
- (b) Chandragupta's ideas were written down in the Arthashastra. **False**
- (c) Kalinga was the ancient name of Bengal. **True**
- (d) Most Ashokan inscriptions are in the Brahmi script. **True**

Let's discuss

Question 4:

What were the problems that Ashoka wanted to solve by introducing *dhamma*?

Answer 4:

There were a number of problems that troubled Ashoka and he wanted to solve those problems. These were:

- People in the empire followed different religions, and this sometimes led to conflict.
- Animals were sacrificed.
- Slaves and servants were ill-treated.
- There were quarrels in families and amongst neighbours.

Question 5:

What were the means adopted by Ashoka to spread the message of *dhamma*?

Answer 5:

The methods adopted to spread the message of *dhamma* were:

- Ashoka appointed officials, known as the *dhamma mahamatta* who went from place to place teaching people about *dhamma*.
- Ashoka got his messages inscribed on rocks and pillars, instructing his officials to read his message to those who could not read it themselves.
- Ashoka also sent messengers to spread ideas about *dhamma* to other lands, such as Syria, Egypt, Greece and Sri Lanka.

Question 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.

Answer 6:

Mostly the slaves and servants were prisoners that is why they were ill-treated.

Yes, orders of emperor would have improved the condition as he was the head of the state. He could issue law of punishment regarding this.

Let's do

Question 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.

Answer 7:

The lions are part of the Lion Capital in Sarnath. 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.

Question 8:

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

Answer 8:

To answer this question, use your own imagination and help from friends and teacher Some sample points:

- (i) Equal rights for men and women.
- (ii) Animal sacrifice be stopped.
- (iii) People should not fight among themselves.
- (iv) No discrimination be practised based on gender, caste, creed, etc.