



Grade VI

Lesson 5. Kingdoms, Kings and An Early Republic

Objective Type Questions

I. Multiple Choice Questions

1. Jana refers to:

- (a) Raja (b) Shudras (c) People (d) Army

2. Ashvamedh was:

- (a) Cow sacrifice (b) Horse sacrifice
(c) Rat sacrifice (d) Elephant sacrifice

3. Hastinapur and Atranjikhhera are situated in:

- (a) Bihar (b) Maharashtra
(c) Rajasthan (d) Uttar Pradesh

4. Rajagriha (present day Rajgir) is in:

- (a) Bihar (b) Maharashtra
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Jammu & Kashmir

5. Vajji its capital at:

- (a) Pataliputra (b) Vaishali (c) Etah (d) Hastinapur

1. c	2. b	3. d	4. a	5. b
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I. Fill in the blanks

1. Magadha became the most important _____ in about two hundred years.
2. Many rivers such as the _____ and _____ flowed through Magadha.
3. The iron-ore mines in the region that could be tapped to make strong _____ and _____.
4. _____ (Present day Rajgir) in Bihar was the capital of Magadha for several years.
5. More than 2300 years ago, a ruler names _____ who lived in Macedonia in Europe, wanted to become a world conqueror.
6. Both the _____ and _____ belonged to ganas or sanghas.
7. About 2,500 years ago, some Janapadas became more important than others and were known as _____.
8. As the rulers of the mahajanapadas were (a) _____, (b) _____. they needed more resources.
9. Taxes on _____ were the most important.
10. _____ were also expected to pay taxes in the form of animals and animal produce.
11. The _____ or horse sacrifice was one such ritual.
12. The raja was a _____ figure in the rituals.
13. The _____ divided people into four groups.
14. According to Priests each _____ had a different set of functions.
15. The word _____ literally means the land where the jana set its foot and settled down.



16. Many people did not accept the system of varna laid down by the _____.

1. Mahajanapada	2. Ganga, Son	3. tools, weapons	4. Rajagriha
5. Alexander	6. Buddha, Mahavira	7. Mahajanapadas	8. Building huge forts, maintaining big armies
9. crops	10. Herders	11. Ashvamedha	12. Central
13. Priests	14. Varna	15. Janapada	16. Brahmins

I. Match the following

(1) Taxes on crops	(i) Landless agricultural labourers
(2) Kammakara	(ii) Buddhist books
(3) Sanghas	(iii) A Janapada
(4) Magadha	(iv) Bhaga
(5) Hastinapur	(v) A Mahajanapada

1. (iv),	2. (i),	3. (ii),	4. (v),	5. (iii).
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I. True or False

1. Capital cities were fortified with huge walls of wood, brick or stone.
2. Alexander was the only person who conquered Mahadha.
3. The sprinkling of sacred water on the king was done by the 'shudras'.
4. The rivers Narmada and Brahmaputra flowed through Magadha.



5. Both the Buddha and Mahavira belonged to 'ganas' or 'sanghas'.
6. The rulers of 'Mahajanapadas' depended on occasional gifts brought by people.

1. True	2. False	3. False	4. False	5. True	6. False
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Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What are Varnas?

The priests divided into four groups called Varnas.

2. Name the four groups of Varnas.

Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras.

3. What is democracy?

Democracy is the government of the people, for the people and by the people.

4. What does Ashvamedha mean?

Ashvamedha means sacrifice of horse.

5. Name the capital of Vajji.

Vaishali is the capital of Vajji.

6. What were Mahajanapadas?

About 2500 years ago, some Janapadas became more important than others and were known as Mahajanapadas.

7. Which people were excluded from the rituals performed by the Rajas?

Some people who were regarded as Shudras by the priests, were excluded from many rituals performed by the Rajas.



8. What were Janapadas?

The word Janapada literally means the land where the Jana set its food and settled down.

9. What do you understand by the term "Rajas of Janapadas"?

The Rajas that performed big sacrifices were recognized as the Rajas of Janapadas.

10. Name some of the Janapadas found by the archaeologists.

Purana Qila in Delhi, Hastinapur near Meerut, and Atranjikhera near Etah (the last two are in Uttar Pradesh).

11. What was the source of income of Rajas of Janapadas?

Occasional gifts brought by people was the source of income of the Rajas of Janapadas.

12. What was the source of income of Rajas Mahajanapadas?

The source of income of the Rajas of Mahajanapadas was regular taxes.

13. What was Bhaga?

The tax that was fixed at $1/6^{\text{th}}$ of the production was known as bhaga or a share.

14. How were iron ploughs useful to the people?

With the help of iron ploughs, the heavy, clayey soil could be turned over better than with a wooden ploughshare, so that more grain could be produced.

15. When did Magadha become an important Mahajanapada?

Magadha became the most important Mahajanapada in about two hundred years.

16. Name the rivers which flowed through Magadha.

Ganga and Son.

17. Name the capital city of Magadha.

Rajagriha (present-day Rajgir) in Bihar was the capital of Mahadha for several years, which was later shifted to Pataliputra (present-day Patna).



18. What was the government at Vajji called?

Gana or a Sangha.

19. Which rulers conquered the last known Sangha?

Gupta rulers conquered the last known Sangha.

20. Name the powerful rulers of Magadha.

Bimbisar, Ajatashatru and Mahapadma Nanda.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who were untouchables?

Some people including crafts persons, hunters and gatherers, as well as people who helped in burials and cremations were classified as untouchables by the priests and stated that contact with these groups was polluting.

2. Who was the central figure in any ritual? How were they recognised?

The Raja was the central figure in these rituals. He often had a special seat, a throne or a tiger skin.

3. Which two major changes came in agriculture during the days of Mahajanapadas?

(i) Use of iron ploughshares was introduced so that heavy, clayey soil could be turned over better and more grain could be produced.

(ii) Transplanting paddy, led to increased production, as many more plants survived.

4. How were forts build by the Rajas?

(i) Building huge walls of the fort required great deal of planning. Thousands of bricks or stone had to be prepared.



(ii) Thousands of men, women and children of the kingdom provided enormous labour for this task.

5. How was army maintained by the Rajas?

Soldiers were paid regular salaries and maintained by the king throughout the year. Some payments were probably made using punch marked coins.

6. List the functions performed by the Rajas of Mahajanapadas.

- (i) Building huge forts.
- (ii) Maintaining big armies.

7. Which groups of people were involved in transplanting activity in agriculture?

- (i) Slave men and women, (dasas and dasis), and
- (ii) Landless agricultural labourers (kammakaras) were involved in transplanting activity.

8. What functions were performed by the Rajas of Sangha?

- (i) Rajas of Sangha performed rituals.
- (ii) They met in assemblies and decided what had to be done and how, through discussion and debate.

9. How did men become rulers in the past?

- (i) The Jana, (the people) chose some of the Rajas.
- (ii) Some men became recognised as Rajas by performing very big sacrifices.

10. Who all were not allowed to be a part of assemblies in Sangha?

- (i) Women,
- (ii) Dasas, and
- (iii) Kammakaras were not allowed to participate in the assemblies.



11. State some of the findings of the archaeologists related to Janapadas.

- (i) The archaeologists found out that people lived in huts.
- (ii) The people kept cattle as well as other animals.
- (iii) The people also grew a variety of crops—rice, wheat, barley, pulses, sugarcane, sesame and mustard.

12. Why were forts built around Mahajanapadas?

Forts were probably built because:

- (i) People were afraid of attacks from other kings and needed protection.
- (ii) Some rulers wanted to show how rich and powerful they were by building really large, tall and impressive walls around their cities.
- (iii) Also in this way, the kings could control their land and the people living inside the fortified areas more easily.

13. Write a few lines about Alexander.

- (i) More than 23,000 years ago, a ruler named Alexander who lived in Macedonia in Europe wanted to become a world conqueror.
- (ii) Thought he couldn't conquer the world, he conquered parts of Egypt and West Asia, and came to Indian sub-continent, reaching up to the banks of the Beas.
- (iii) But when he tried to march further eastwards, his soldiers refused, as they were scared of the rulers of India who had vast armies of foot soldiers, chariots and elephants.

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Long Answer Type Questions

1. What were the main domestic conditions in the Mahajanapadas?

These were the following domestic conditions in the Mahajanapadas:

(i) Agriculture: Agriculture prospered in most of the Mahajanapadas as they were located in fertile areas. Many canals and wells were dug to improve irrigation. The farmers learnt to use manure.

(ii) Rise of Cities: The production of surplus crops allowed some people to specialise in crafts such as metal working, carpentry and pot-making. The exchange of surplus crops and goods manufactured by the craftsmen led to the development trade. Cities grew around centres of craft, trade and administration.

(iii) Administration: The Mahajanapadas were mostly monarchies. The king maintained a large, well equipped and regularly paid army during war and peace. The king often gave tax-free villages to the Brahmins.

(iv) Revenue: Tax collectors taxes in the form of money or in any other kind. A share of one-sixth of the agricultural produce had to be given as tax. The revenue collected was spent on paying salaries to the people in administration, on public works and on maintaining the standing army.

(v) Social organisation: Caste rigidities increased strict rules that governed each caste. Intermarriage and interdining between the castes were not allowed. The trades and crafts of the shrenis became hereditary.

(vi) Trade: Good roads encouraged trade, even over long distances. Overseas trade also gained importance. Earlier, trading was done through barter system. Money in the form of punch marked coins came into use and copper and silver began to be used in trade.

(Any five)

2. How were forests and rivers useful for the people of Magadha?

Forests:

(i) Elephants from the forest were capture and trained for the army.



(ii) Forests also provided wood for building houses, carts and chariots.

Rivers:

(i) Transport.

(ii) Water supplies.

(iii) Making the land fertile.

3. Mention the main features of Ashvamedha.

(i) The Ashvamedha or horse sacrifice was one of the rituals. In this, a horse was let loose to wander freely and it was guarded by the Raja's men.

(ii) If the horse wandered into the kingdoms of other Rajas and they stopped it then they had to fight.

(iii) If they allowed the horse to pass, it meant that they accepted that the Raja wanted to perform the sacrifice and was stronger than them.

(iv) These Rajas were then invited to the sacrifice, which was performed by specially trained priests. The Raja that organised the sacrifice was recognised as very powerful.

4. Who all were involved in rituals and what functions did they perform?

(i) Priests: Rituals were performed by specially trained priests, who were rewarded with gifts by the Rajas.

(ii) Charioteer: He was the Raja's companion in the battlefield and witnessed his campaigns and chanted tales of his glory.

(iii) Rajas wives and sons: They had to perform a variety of minor rituals.

(iv) Other Rajas: They were simply spectators who had to sit and watch the performance of the sacrifice.

(v) The ordinary people, the Vish or Vaishya brought gifts for Raja.



5. Describe the composition and function of each Varna in the Varna system.

- (i) The first Varna was that of the Brahmin. Brahmins were expected to study (and teach) the Vedas, perform sacrifices and receive gifts.
- (ii) In the second place were the rulers, also known as Kshatriyas. They were expected to fight battles and protect people.
- (iii) Third were the Vish or the Vaishyas. They were expected to be farmers, herders, and traders. Both the Kshatriyas and Vaishyas could perform sacrifices.
- (iv) Last were the Shudras, who had to serve the other three groups and could not perform any rituals. Often, women were also grouped with the Shudras. Both women and Shudras were not allowed to study the Vedas.

6. Mention some of the opinions given by the people against Varna system.

Many people did not accept the system of Varna laid down by the Brahmins.

- (i) Some kings thought they were superior to the priests.
- (ii) Others felt that birth could be a basis for deciding which varna people belonged to.
- (iii) Some people felt that there should be no difference amongst people based on occupation.
- (iv) Others felt that everybody should be able to perform rituals.
- (v) Some condemned the practice of untouchability.
- (vi) Also, there were many areas in the subcontinent, such as the northeast, where social and economic differences were not very sharp, and where the influence of the priests was limited.



7. Explain the system of taxation in the Mahajanapadas.

Mahajanapadas collected regular taxes in the following ways:

- (i) Taxes on crops were the most important. Usually, the tax was fixed at $1/6^{\text{th}}$ of what was produced. This was known as bhaga or a share.
 - (ii) There were taxes on crafts persons as well. These could have been in the form of labour.
 - (iii) Herders were also expected to pay taxes in the form of animals and animal produce.
 - (iv) There were also taxes on goods that were bought and sold through trade.
 - (v) Hunters and gatherers also had to provide forest produce to the Raja.
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