

# Chapter 2 history

1. Who deciphered the Brahmi and

Kharosthi scripts?

- (a) James John
- (b) James Princep
- (c) Nicholas
- (d) Edison

2. Which century is known as the transitioning era of the early Indian history?

- (a) 6th century
- (b) 7th century
- (c) 8th century
- (d) 10th century

3. According to the Buddhist literature, who was the most famous king?

- (a) Bimbisara
- (b) Chandragupta Maurya
- (c) Ashoka
- (d) Samudragupta Maurya

4. Which state was included in the Mahajanapada?

- (a) Vij
- (b) Magadha
- (c) Panchal
- (d) All the above

5. What was Magadha's capital in the 4th century?

- (a) Rajahs
- (b) Patliputra
- (c) Rajgiri
- (d) Aang

6. Who was the founder of the Mauryan dynasty?

- (a) Chandragupta Maura
- (b) Ashoka

(c) Vikramaditya

(d) Ajatshattu

7. According to the sources of Ashoka, he spread the idea of:

(a) Dhamma

(b) Knowledge

(c) Scholars

(d) Education

8. Who won the battle with Kalinga?

(a) Kautilya

(b) Chandragupta Maurya

(c) Bimbisara

(d) Ashoka

9. What title was used by most of

Kushana rulers?

(a) Devputra

(b) Devtulya

(c) Devraj

(d) Devnaam

10. Prabhavati Gupta was the daughter of which King?

(a) Chandragupta Maurya

(b) Chandragupta II

(c) Vikramaditya

(d) Ashoka

11. Which metal coins came in use in the anurva as an experiment?

(a) Silver

(b) Copper and Gola

(c) Gold and Silver

(d) None of the above

12. Who issued gold coins in first century for the first time?

- (a) Mauryan Rulers
- (b) Kushana Rulers
- (c) Chola Rulers
- (d) Gupta Rulers

13. What was the title of Ashoka?

- (a) Devapriya
- (b) Piyadasi
- (c) (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

14. The land donated to the Brahmins is known as:

- (a) Janahaar
- (b) Agrahaar
- (c) Daan
- (d) Bhet

15. Who was Kautilya?

- (a) Minister of Chandra Gupta
- (b) Commander of Chandragupta
- (c) Minister of Ashoka
- (d) Teacher of Ashoka

16. How many Mahajanapadas were there?

- (a) 17
- (b) 14
- (c) 18
- (d) 16

17. Which of these was the most powerful Mahajanapada from 6th to 4th century BCE?

- (a) Kuru
- (b) Magadha

(c) PanehaLa

(d) Ciandhara

18. Who appointed Dhamma mahamantras

(a) Bimbisara

(b) Samudraupta

(c) Ashoka

(d) Pandya

19. Who founded the Mauryan Empire?

(a) Ashoka

(b) Chandragupta Maurya

(c) Bindusara

(d) Ajatashatru

20. Sangam is a literature of language

(a) Tamil

(b) Malsyam

c) Sanskrit

(d) Marathi

21. Harishena was the court poet of

(a) Samudragupta

(b) Chandragupta II

(c) Ashoka

(d) Chandragupta Maurya

22. The early Tamil Sangam literature mentions slaves known as-

(a) adimai

(b) pannai (C)vellalar

(D) Uzhazavar

23. The Prakrit name for present-day

Rajgir in Bihar was:

(a) Rajagaha

(b) Rajagraha

(c) Ramgaha

(d) Ramgraha

24. Alexander Cunningham published a set of Ashokan inscriptions in-(a) 1874

(b) 1875

(c) 1876

(d) 1877

25. . The Arthashastra was composed by

(a) Banabhatta

(b) Kautilya

(c) Ravikirti

(d) Ashvaghosha

26. The first ever ruler to propagate the principles of Dhamma was-

(a) Bimbisara

(b) Chandragupta II

(c) Chandragupta Maurya

(d) Ashoka

27. The first issue of Epigraphia Indica was published in-(a) 1885

(b) 1886

(c) 1887

(d) 1888

28. The Pragy Prashasti was composed in

(a) Sanskrit

(b) Pali

(c) Prakrit

(d) Brahmi

29. The term 'Sovanika' was used in ancient India as reference to:

(a) carpenter

(b) goldsmith

- (c) potter
- (d) sculptor

30. Megasthenes mentions a committee with six subcommittees of military, of which the fifth looked after:

- (a) chariots
- (b) foot-soldiers
- (c) horses
- (d) transport

31. \_\_\_ were elaborate stone structures in central and south India in first millennium BCE.

- (a) Pannai
- (b) Megaliths
- (c) Dhamma
- (d) None of the above

32. Who were a clan of nomadic people living in China?

- (a) Greeks
- (b) Kushanas
- (c) Aztecs
- (d) Maya

33. Who was the owner, master or head of the household?

- a) Pannai
- b) Mahamatta
- c) Dhamma
- d) Gahapati

36. Which one of the following is the author of Arthashastra?

- (a) Kalhana
- (b) Kalidasa
- (c) Kautilya
- (d) Banabhatta

37. What are big rocks kept on the burial in central and south India called?

- (a) Northern Black Polished Ware
- (b) Pillars
- (c) Boulders
- (d) Megaliths

38. Who was Dhamma Mahamatta?

Special revenue officers appointed by  
Ashoka for tax collection

- (b) Special officers appointed by Ashoka for maintaining law and order in the kingdom
- (c) Special officers appointed by Ashoka to spread the message of dhamma
- (d) Special officers appointed by Ashoka to stop the spread of dhamma

39. Why is the sixth century BCE often considered a major turning point in Indian history?

(a) Emergence of states, cities and towns;  
use of iron

(c) Emergence of states, cities and towns;  
Dominance of Hinduism

(c) Dominance of Hinduism; use of iron

(d) Emergence of Buddhism and Jainism, Extensive use of Copper

40. Who composed the Prayag Prashasti in praise of Samudragupta?

- (a) Prabhavati Gupta
- (b) Harisena
- (c) Kautilya
- (d) Banabhatta

41. Which of the following is not one of the main features of Asoka's Dhamma?

- (a) Respect the elders and be generous to the Brahmins.
- (b) Consider your religion superior to the other religions.
- (c) Gahapati should respect members of the family, relatives, servants, the poor and the slaves (d).  
Follow non-violence

42. What were the guilds of the merchants and craftsmen called?
- (a) Shrenis
  - (b) Ur
  - (c) Adimai
  - (d) Uzhavar
43. What is James Princep's contribution in the development of the Indian epigraphy?
- (a) He deciphered the Brahmi script used in most of the Ashokan inscriptions.
  - (b) He deciphered the Kharoshthi script used in most of the Ashokan inscriptions.
  - (c) (a) and (b)
  - (d) None of these
44. Ventures of which of the following traders were risky but highly profitable?
- (a) Peddlers
  - (b) Seafarers
  - (c) Merchants with caravans of bullock carts and pack - animals
  - (d) All of the above
45. Who issued the first coins bearing the names of rulers?
- (a) Mauryans
  - (b) Guptas
  - (c) Indo-Greeks
  - (d) Satavahanas
46. Ashoka is mentioned by which titles in his inscriptions?
- (a) Ashoka, Piyadassi
  - (b) Masattuvan, Ashoka
  - (c) Devanampiya, Piyadassi
  - (d) Devaputra, Piyadassi
47. Name the language in which the Ashokan inscriptions were written.
- (a) Pali, Prakrit and Greek
  - (b) Pali, Sanskrit and Aramaic
  - (c) Prakrit, Aramaic and Greek



(d) Pali, Sanskrit and Greek

48. Consider the following statements regarding Magadha.

(i) Magadha was the most powerful mahajanapada.

(ii) Initially Pataliputra was the capital of Magadha and later it was shifted to Rajagriha.

(iii) Elephants were found in abundance in the forests of Magadha.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

(a) i and ii

(b) ii and iii

(c) i and iii

(d) ii only

49. Identify the best reason for considering King Ashoka as

'Devanamapiya' and Piyadassi' by his subjects.

(a) Ashoka commissioned the edicts himself

(b) He adopted the title of 'Devaputra'.

(c) Epigraphists have concluded him as devanamapiya.

(d) He did well being of society through Dhamma.

50. Which one of the following statements was not a justified reason for Magadha being powerful mahajanapada?

(a) Magadha was drained by several rivers which made the land very fertile.

(b) In Magadha there were rich deposits of iron ore.

(c) Patliputra, the capital of Magadha, was fortified.

(d) Magadha was ruled by powerful kings.

51. The earliest capital of Magadha was

Rajagriha which means

(a) house of the king

(b) house of the people

(c) house of the animals

(d) none of the above

52. who issued the first coins bearing the names of rulers?

- (a) Mauryas
- (b) Guptas
- (c) Indo-Greeks
- (d) Satavahanas

53. Ashoka is mentioned by which titles in his inscriptions?

- (a) Ashoka, Piyadassi
- (b) Masattuvan, Ashoka
- (c) Devanampiya, Piyadassi
- (d) Devaputra, Piyadassi

54. Name the languages in which the Ashokan inscriptions were written.

- (a) Pali, Prakrit, and Greek
- (b) Pali, Sanskrit, and Aramaic
- (c) Prakrit, Aramaic, and Greek
- (d) Pali, Sanskrit, and Greek

55. \_\_\_\_\_ founded the Mauryan Empire in 321BCE

56. Who was Harisena?

57. Who was Prabhavati Gupta?

58. Mention any two yajnas performed by the kings during the Vedic period.

59. Consider the following statements regarding Magadha.

- (i) Magadha was the most powerful mahajanapada.
- (ii) Initially Pataliputra was the capital of Magadha and later it was shifted to Rajagriha.
- (iii) Elephants were found in abundance in the forests of Magadha.

Which of the following statements)

is/are correct?

- (a) I and II
- (b) II and III
- (c) I and III
- (d) II only

60. Identify the best reason for considering

King Ashoka as 'Devanampiya' and

'Piyadassi' by his subjects.

- (a) Ashoka commissioned the edicts himself
- (b) He adopted the title of 'Devaputra'
- (c) Epigraphists have concluded him as devanam priya.
- (d) He did well being of society through dhamma.

61. Which of the Following statements was not a justified reason for Magadha being a powerful mahajana padapa

- (a) Magadha was drained by several rivers which made the land very fertile.
- (b) In Magadha there were rich deposits of iron ore.
- (c) Pataliputra, the capital of Magadha, was fortified.
- (d) Magadha was ruled by powerful kings.

62. Assertion (A): There are limits to what epigraphy can reveal.

Reason (R): It is not always easy to be sure about the exact meaning of the words used in inscriptions.

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are correct and (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (c) (A) is correct but (R) is not correct.
- (d) (R) is correct but (A) is not correct.

63. Who was the author of the book 'Arthashastras'?

64. \_\_\_\_\_ were elaborate stone structures in central and south India in first millennium BCE.

- (a) Pannai.
- (b) Megaliths.
- (c) Dhamma.
- (d) None of the above.

65. Megasthenes mentions a committee with six subcommittees of military, of which the fifth looked after:

- (a) chariots.
- (b) foot-soldiers.
- (c) horses.

(d) transport.

66. Magadha was the most powerful Mahajanapada from sixth to fourth century BCE.

Historians offered different kinds of explanations for the growth of Magadha. Which of the following statement is incorrect regarding the growth of Magadha?

(a) Magadha was a region where agriculture was especially productive.

(b) Iron mines were accessible and provided resources for tools and weapons.

(c) Magadha's proximity to the sea makes it a business hub. Many foreign traders used to come here for trading purposes.

(d) Elephants, an important component of the army, were found in forests in the region.

67. Which one of these became the most powerful Mahajanapada between the sixth and the fourth centuries BE?

(a) Magadha

(b) Kashi

(c) Chedi

(d) Kuru

68...Which one of the following was the first capital of Magadha?

(a) Rajagaha

(b) Ujjain

(c) Taxila

(d) Gandhara

69: Periplus in Greek means:

(a) Act of bread making

(b) Sailing around

(c) Bead Making

(d) Ships

70.: The Prayaga Prashasti (also known as the Allahabad Pillar Inscription) was composed in Sanskrit by Harishena. Harishena was the court poet of which of the following kings?

(a) King Samudragupta

(b) King Ashoka

(c) King Chandra Gupta Maurya

(d) King Kanishka

71. Who was the first ruler to inscribe his messages to his subjects and officials on stone surfaces - natural rocks as well as polished pillars?

(a) Kanishka

(b) Bimbisara

(c) Chandra Gupta Maurya

(d) Ashoka

72. Who was Dhamma Mahamatta?

(a) Special revenue officers appointed by Ashoka tax collection

(b) Special officers appointed by Ashoka for maintaining law and order in the kingdom

(c) Special officers appointed by Ashoka to spread message of Dhamma

(d) Special officer appointed by Ashoka to stop the spread of Dhamma

73. Which of these was Asoka reign?

(a) c. 268-231 BCE

(b) c. 600-500 BCE

(c) c. 606-647 CE

(d) c. 200-100 BCE

74. Who was the owner, master or head of the household

(a) Pannai.

(b) Mahamatta.

(c) Dhamma.

(d) Gahapati.

75. How many Maha janapadas were there:

76. Who were a clan of nomadic people living in China.

77. What were Dharamsutras

78. Name the most powerful Mahajan Padas.

79. Name the capital of Magadha.

80. Who started the Mauryan empire

True/False

81. Asiatic Society Of Bengal was founded in a year 1801.
82. Kandhar was the major political center of Mauryan empire.
83. Hundustan book has mention of Mauryan Administration
84. Kautilya wrote 'kings should run the administration with the help of his minister even if he is an autocratic ruler'.
85. Vaishali was the capital of Kushana.

Answer key...

- |        |        |        |  |              |  |           |
|--------|--------|--------|--|--------------|--|-----------|
| 1. (B) | 16.(D) | 31.(B) | 48.(D)   | 63. Kautilya | 74.(D)   | 85. False |
| 2. (A) | 17.(B) | 32.(B) | 49.(C)   | 64.(B)       | 75.16  |           |
| 3. ©   | 18.(C) | 33.(D) | 50.(C)   | 65.(A)       | 76. Kushanas                                       |           |
| 4.(B)  | 19.(B) | 36.(C) | 51.(A)   | 66.(C)       | 77. Religious text written in sanskrit by Brahmins |           |
| 5.(B)  | 20.(A) | 37.(D) | 52.(C)   | 67.(A)       | 78. Magadha  |           |
| 6.(A)  | 21.(A) | 38.(C) | 53.(C)   | 68.(A)       | 79. Rajagriha                                      |           |
| 7.(A)  | 22.(A) | 39.(A) | 54.(C)   | 69.(B)       | 80. Chandragupta Maurya                            |           |
| 8.(D)  | 23.(A) | 40.(B) | 55. Chandragupta Maurya                                  |              |  |           |
| 9.(A)  | 24.(D) | 41.(B) | 56. Harisena was the court poet of king Samudragupta     |              |  |           |
| 10.(B) | 25.(B) | 42.(A) | 57. Prabhavati Gupta was the daughter of Chandragupta II |              |  |           |
| 11.(A) | 26.(D) | 43.(A) | 58. Rajsuya Yajna and Ashwamedha Yajna                   |              |  |           |
| 12.(B) | 27.(D) | 44.(B) | 59.(C)   | 70.(A)       | 81. False  |           |
| 13.(C) | 28.(A) | 45.(C) | 60.(D)   | 71.(D)       | 82. False  |           |
| 14.(B) | 29.(B) | 46.(C) | 61.(C)   | 72.(C)       | 83. False  |           |
| 15.(A) | 30.(A) | 47.(C) | 62.(A)   | 73.(A)       | 84. True   |           |

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:

What the king's officials did?

Here is an excerpt from the account of Megasthenes: Of the great officers of state, some ... superintend the rivers, measure the land, as is done in Egypt, and inspect the sluices by which water is let out from the main canals into their branches, so that everyone may have an equal supply of it. The same persons have charge also of the huntsmen, and are entrusted with the power of rewarding or punishing them according to their deserts. They collect the taxes, and superintend the occupations connected with land; as those of the woodcutters, the carpenters, the blacksmiths, and the miners.

86. Explain the duties of the officers of state.

Ans. 1. Some superintended the rivers, measured lands and inspected the sluices which water was let out from the main by which water was let out from the main canals into their branches, so that everyone would have an equal supply of it.

2. They had also charge of huntsmen, entrusted with the power of rewarding or punishing them according to their deserts.

3. They collected the taxes, and

superintended the occupations connected with land; as those of the woodcutters, the carpenters, the blacksmiths, and the miners.

87. Explain the role of the subcommittees for coordinating military activities.

Ans. 1. Megasthenes mentioned a committee with six subcommittees for coordinating military activity.

2. They looked after navy, transport and provisions, foot soldiers, horses, chariots and elephants.

3. The second committee had to arrange bullock carts to carry equipments procure food for soldiers and fodder for animals and recruit servants and artisans to look after the soldiers.

88) What did Ashoka do to hold his empire together?

Ans. 1. Ashoka tried to hold his empire

2..History of Patliputra.

Each city had a history of its own, Pataliputra for instance, began as a village known as Pataligrama. Then, in the fifth century BCE, the Magadha decided to shift their capital from Rajagriha to this settlement and renamed it. By the fourth century BCE, was the capital of the Mauryan Empire and one of the largest cities in Asia. Subsequently its importance apparently, declined. When the chinese pilgrim Xuan Zang visited the city in the seventh century CE, he found it in ruins, and with very small population.

89. Write the name of that village from which the town/ city of Pataliputra developed.

Ans: Pataliputra emerged from a village known as Pataligrama.

90.. By which rulers and when in place of which town Pataliputra was made capital?

Ans: In the fifth century BCE, the Magadhan rulers decided to shift their capital from Rajagriha to Pataliputra.

91. By the fourth century BCE what importance was gained Pataliputra?

Ans: By the fourth century BCE Pataliputra was the capital of the Mauryan Empire and one of the largest cities in Asia.

92.. During the Maurya Empire which

Chinese traveller came when? What was the position of Pataliputra at that time?

Ans: The Chinese pilgrim Xuan Zang visited Pataliputra in the seventh century

CE. He found it in ruins, and with a very small population.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given as follows:

#### Capturing Elephants for the Army

The Arthashastra lays down minute details of administrative and military organisation.

Guards of elephant forests, assisted by those who rear elephants, those who enchain the legs of elephants, those who guard the boundaries, those who live in forests, as well as by those who nurse elephants, shall, with the help in tethering wild ones, trace the whereabouts of herds of elephants by following the course of urine and dung left by elephants

, 93. Capturing of elephants was so important. Why?

Solution

Capturing of elephants was important because they were the important part or wing of the military activities as well as for transportation.

94. Who was Kautilya? What did he Compose.

Solution

Kautilya was a scholar and believed to be the composed the Arthashastra.

Read the passage and answer the question...

This is the excerpt from the prayaga prashasti.....yama (the god of death). He was without an antagonist on earth, he, by the overflowing of the adorned by hundreds of good actions, has wiped off the fame of other kings with the soles of (his) feet, (he is ) Purusha (the Supreme Being), being the cause of the prosperity of the good and the destruction of the bad (he is ) incomprehensible, (he is ) one whose tender heart can be captured only by devotion and humility, (he is ) possessed of compassion, (he is ) the giver of many hundred-thousands of cows, (his) mind has received ceremonial initiation for the uplift of the miserable, the poor, the forlorn and the suffering, (he is ) resplendent and embodied kindness to mankind: ( he is) equal to (the gods ) Kubera (the god of wealth), Varuna (the god of the ocean), Indra (the god of rains) and Yama (the god of death).

95. Mention any three qualities of ruler.

(üi) A ruler

(a) Should be powerful

(b) Should have kindness

(c) Should bring prosperity

96. What is the Prashasti? Who wrote the above prashasti.

(i) Prashasti is an inscription composed in the praise of kings by eminent poets. It was written by Harisena.

97. Mention any three qualities of ruler according to the prashasti..



(it) A ruler

(a) Should be powerful

(b) Should have kindness

(c) Should bring prosperity

98. Read the passage and answer the question

When the king Devanampiya Piyadassi had been ruling for eight years, the (country of the ) Kalingas (present-day coastal Orissa) was conquered by (him). One hundred and thousand were killed. and many more died.

After that. now that (the country of) the Kalingas has been taken, Devanampiya (is devoted to an intense study of Dhamma, to the love of Dhamma, and to instructing (the people in Dhamma. This is the repentance of Devanampiya on account of his conquest of the (country of the ) Kalingas. For this is considered very painful and deplorable by Devanampiya that, while one is conquering an unconquered (county) slaughter, death and deportation of people (taken place) there ..... being the cause of the prosperity of the good and the destruction of the bad (he is ) incomprehensible, (he is) one whose tender heart can be captured only by devotion and humility, (he is ) possessed of compassion, (he is ) the giver of many hundred- thousands of cows, , (his) mind has received ceremonial initiation for the uplift of the miserable, the poor, the forlorn and the suffering, (he is ) resplendent and embodied kindness to mankind, (he is ) equal to (the gods)

Kubera (the god of wealth), Varuna (the god of the ocean), Indra (the god of rains) and Yama (the god of death),

98 .Who has issued this inscription? The except refers to which war?

() This inscription was issued by Ashoka the great Mauryan king. The excerpt from the inscription refers to the war of Kalinga.

99. How did the God seek repentance?

(il) By the massacre in war of kalinga Ashoka was filled with grief and remorse so he sought repentence by

(a) conquering other land ideologically

(b) abandonning the policy of physical occupation in favour of policy of cultural occupation. (To follow the Dhamma in all respect.

100. What steps did Ashoka take to spread

Dhamma? Give three points.

(il) Ashoka took the steps to spread

Dhamma

(a) Appointed special officers known as the Dhamma Mahamatta to spread the message of dhamma among the people,

- (b) He asked his officials to tell the subject that the king looked upon them as his children,
- (c) He appointed rajukas. for administration of justice in his empire,