



G.D.GOENKA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Subject: S.St

(History)

Topic: The First Empire - the Mauryas

Date:18-11-2021 (Thursday)

Grade VI

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BOOKWORK

A. Tick the correct answer.

1. b
2. c
3. d
4. c
5. a
6. d
7. c

b. Tick the correct statements and cross the wrong ones.

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True

D. Give short answers for the following questions questions.

1. What do the Indika and the Arthashastra tell us about the Mauryas?

Ans: The main source of information on the Mauryas are through two books:

1. Indika, written by Megasthenes, tells us about the social, political and economic life of the people during the Mauryan times.

2. Arthashastra by Kautilya deals with governance of an empire. It describes the administration of the Mauryas.

2. When was the Kalinga War fought? Why did Ashoka attack Kalinga?

Ans: When Ashoka became the king, Kalinga was the only kingdom that was not under Mauryan control. Kalinga was important because it controlled the land and sea routes to south India and south-east Asia. In 261 BC, Ashoka attacked Kalinga and conquered it after a fierce battle.

3. What was Dhamma?

Ans: Dhamma is a Prakrit word, which is derived from the Sanskrit word 'dharma' meaning religious duty. Dhamma did not involve worship of Gods or the performance of sacrifices. Instead, Dhamma was a code of conduct and morals such as charity, kindness, benevolence and tolerance, to be followed.

4. What do you know about the central administration of the Mauryas?

Ans: Mauryan administration can be divided into four divisions: central, provincial, district and village.

At the central level, the king was the supreme authority. He took all the important decisions of the empire. In this task, he was aided and advised by a council of ministers.

Give long answer for the following questions.

1. Why was the Kalinga War a turning point in the life of Ashoka?

Ans: When Ashoka became the king, Kalinga was the only kingdom that was not under Mauryan control. Ashoka attacked Kalinga and conquered it after fighting a tough war.

But this battle proved to be a turning point in Ashoka's life. He was saddened by the death and suffering caused by the war. He realised that war was a futile affair that only led to death and sadness.

After the war, Ashoka gave up his policy of conquest through war (dig-vijaya) and began to follow a policy of conquest through dharma (dharma-vijaya). The spread of dharma became the goal of Ashoka's life.

2. What were the welfare measures adopted by Ashoka?

Ans: For Ashoka, the citizen were just like his own children. The well-being of his children was his responsibility. He took a number of measures to promote welfare of his citizen. Some of these are as follows:

1. Good roads were built and trees were planted on both sides of the roads.

2. Rest-houses were constructed for travellers, along the roads.

3. A large number of wells were dug.

4. Hospitals, for both people and animals, were constructed.

3. Write any two steps taken by Ashoka to spread Dhamma.

Ans: Dhamma means religious duty. It was Ashoka's desire that his citizen should understand the concept of rightful living and practise it to the fullest. In order to spread dhamma, he took the following steps:

a. Edicts containing the principles of dhamma were issued by Ashoka. These edicts were engraved on rocks and pillars and were placed throughout the kingdom at public places like markets and temples.

b. Ashoka appointed officials known as dharma mahamatras to spread dhamma. These officials went from place to place and propagated the message of dhamma. Some even went outside the country to places like Sri Lanka, Myanmar, South-East and central Asia, etc.

4. Write short notes on – Administration of Pataliputra, Sources of revenue.

Ans :1) The administration of Patliputra;

The capital of the Mauryan Empire, was carried out through a 30-member committee. This committee was divided into six boards, which catered to specific departments of

a. comfort and safety of foreigners

b. registration of births and deaths

c. industry

d. trade and commerce

e. inspection of goods

f. collection of taxes

2) The most important source of income was the land revenue. Usually it was fixed at one-fourth to one-sixth of the produce. However, this revenue was fixed according to the fertility of the soil. Apart from land tax, trade was also an important source of revenue. The Mauryans flourished due to the practise of both inland and overseas trade. Mines, custom duties, gifts and water tax were also significant revenue sources.

5. It is said that Ashoka was the first king who spoke directly to his people. How did he do this.

Ans: Ashoka was the first king to speak directly to his people. He achieved this through his edicts. These edicts contained the various principles of dhamma that he wanted his people to learn and apply in their lives

6. Why do you think the Mauryan kings employed spies?

Ans: Every kingdom faces the danger of revolts from the opponents. This could have been possible during the Mauryan times too, where the kingdom was so far-stretched. To control irrational dissent, first hand information of such plotting was essential. Thus, there was a need of spies.