



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VII	Department: SOCIAL SCIENCE	Subject: History
Chapter 5	Topic: The Rise of Empires	Year :2026-27
Question Bank :4		

I	Choose the correct option: -																								
Q 1	What was the main language of Ashoka's edicts? A. Sanskrit. B. Prakrit. C. Persian. D. Greek.																								
Q 2	Which kingdom rose to prominence around the 6 th century BCE? A. Kosala. B. Avanti. C. Magadha. D. Gandhara.																								
Q 3	Why did the Maurya Empire decline after Ashoka? A. Natural disasters B. Weak Successors. C. British rule. D. Buddhist Monks.																								
Q 4	What type of structure is the Sanchi Stupa? A. Palace. B. Fortress. C. Dome. D. Religious monument.																								
Q 5	Match the following: - <table border="1"><thead><tr><th></th><th>Column I</th><th></th><th>Column II</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>a</td><td>Pataliputra</td><td>i</td><td>University where Kautilya taught</td></tr><tr><td>b</td><td>Sarnath</td><td>ii</td><td>Location of a great stupa</td></tr><tr><td>c</td><td>Kalinga</td><td>iii</td><td>Capital of Maurya Empire</td></tr><tr><td>d</td><td>Taxila</td><td>iv</td><td>Site of decisive war under Ashoka</td></tr><tr><td>e</td><td>Sanchi</td><td>v</td><td>Ashoka's Lion Capital pillar</td></tr></tbody></table> A. a-ii, b-iv, c-v, d- i, e- iii. B. a-iii, b-v, c-iv, d- ii, e- i. C. a-iii, b-v, c-iv, d- i, e- ii. D. a-iii, b-v, c-ii, d- i, e- iv.		Column I		Column II	a	Pataliputra	i	University where Kautilya taught	b	Sarnath	ii	Location of a great stupa	c	Kalinga	iii	Capital of Maurya Empire	d	Taxila	iv	Site of decisive war under Ashoka	e	Sanchi	v	Ashoka's Lion Capital pillar
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Q 6	Assertion (A) and Reason(R) Assertion (A): Magadha became powerful due to its geographical advantages. Reason (R): The Ganga plains offered fertile land and abundant resources. A. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A). B. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A). C. (A) is true, but (R) is false.																								

	D. (A) is false, but (R) is true.
II	Very short answer questions: -
Q 7	What was the name of the last Nanda ruler? Ans: Dhana Nanda was the name of the last Nanda ruler.
Q 8	What was the purpose of granaries? Ans: To store surplus grain to safeguard the population against famines, droughts, or food shortages.
Q 9	Who was the Greek ambassador in Chandragupta's court? Ans: Megasthenes (sent by Seleucus I Nicator).
III	Short answer: -
Q 10	Discuss the reasons for the decline of large empires. Ans: • Weak Successors: Incompetent rulers following strong founding emperors could not keep distant provinces under control. • Vast Geographical Extent: Maintaining communication and governance across huge territories without modern technology was difficult. • Financial Strain: Heavy expenditure on maintaining vast armies, administrative machinery, and public projects drained state treasuries. • Foreign Invasions & Internal Revolts: Invasions from border tribes combined with provincial governors declaring independence eroded imperial power..
Q 11	Explain the importance of granaries during the Mauryan period. Ans: • Famine & Emergency Relief: Stored excess agricultural produce to feed the public during droughts, famines, or natural disasters. • Buffer Stock: Ensured food security and stabilized prices across the empire. • Taxation Storage: Served as storage houses for grain collected directly as agricultural tax from farmers.
IV	Long Answers: -
Q 12	Explain the Saptanga theory of the state. Ans: Formulated by Kautilya in the Arthashastra, the Saptanga Theory compares the state to an organic body with seven essential limbs (<i>Angas</i>): 1. Swami (The King/Ruler): The head and central authority. 2. Amatya (The Ministers/Officials): The eyes, assisting in administration. 3. Janapada (Territory and People): The legs, forming the land and agricultural base. 4. Durga (Fort/Fortified Capital): The arms, providing defense and security. 5. Kosha (Treasury): The mouth, providing financial resources. 6. Danda (Army/Military Force): The mind/coercive power, maintaining law and order. 7. Mitra (Allies/Friends): The ears, offering diplomatic support during crises.
Q 13	Explain the factors that helped the growth of kingdoms into large empires in ancient India. Ans: • Agricultural Surplus: Fertile river valleys (like the Ganga plains) yielded high crop production, sustaining large armies and urban centers. • Mineral Resources: Access to iron ore deposits (such as in Magadha) enabled the mass production of superior weapons and tools. • Centralized Governance: Development of strong administration, professional armies, and organized taxation systems. • Strategic Location: Control over major trade routes allowed rulers to generate revenue through trade tariffs.
Q 14	Describe Alexander's campaign in India and its impact. Ans:

	• The Campaign: In 326 BCE, Alexander invaded Northwestern India, defeating local rulers like King Porus at the Battle of the Hydaspes (Jhelum River). His battle-weary troops refused to advance further past the Beas River, forcing him to retreat. • Impact: ◦ Political Impact: Weakened local warlords and regional monarchies in the Northwest, making it easier for Chandragupta Maurya to unify Northern India. ◦ Cultural Impact: Established direct contact between India and the Greek world, leading to the growth of Greco-Buddhist art (Gandhara art). ◦ Trade Routes: Opened four distinct land and sea trade routes between India and the West.
Q 15	How did paying tribute help emperors maintain control over distant regions? Ans: • Recognition of Authority: Accepting tribute from local chiefs or vassal kings acknowledged imperial supremacy without requiring costly direct administration. • Economic Benefit & Peace: Generated continuous revenue for the central empire while allowing local rulers relative autonomy, minimizing local rebellions.
Q 16	If you were a merchant in the Mauryan period, how would trade routes and guilds help your business? Ans: • Trade Routes: Maintained highways like Uttarapatha provided safe transit, rest houses, and security against bandits, allowing smooth transportation of goods across long distances. • Guilds (Shrenis): Guilds provided financial loans, regulated product quality and prices, protected trade rights, and offered collective bargaining power against high taxes.
Q 17	Compare Ashoka's edict system with modern methods of government communication. What are the similarities and differences? Ans: Similarities • Direct & Public: Both reach common citizens directly through public spaces (busy roads/crossroads then; digital/print media now). • Local Languages: Both use regional languages so ordinary people can understand the messages easily. • Public Welfare Focus: Both promote civic duties, moral values, health, and social harmony. Differences • Medium: Ashoka used stone rocks and pillars; modern governments use digital platforms, TV, radio, and print. • Speed: Edicts took months or years to carve and transport; modern communication is instantaneous. • Flow of Information: Edicts were one-way (royal decrees); modern communication allows two-way feedback (citizens can reply, vote, or file grievances).
VI	Case study: -
Q 18	Ashoka visited a village after the Kalinga War and saw families grieving. Moved by their pain, he began promoting dhamma. He issued edicts urging people to live with kindness and avoid unnecessary violence. (a) What made Ashoka change his policy after the war? • Seeing the massive bloodshed, destruction, and suffering of thousands of families during the Kalinga War moved him deeply, prompting him to renounce violence. (b) What is the meaning of dhamma?

	• <i>Dhamma</i> (Prakrit for <i>Dharma</i>) refers to a code of moral and ethical conduct based on non-violence, truth, tolerance, kindness, and respect for all living beings. (c) Why did Ashoka issue edicts in local languages? • He used regional scripts and local languages (such as Prakrit/Brahmi) so that common people could easily read, comprehend, and follow his messages directly.
Q 19	The Mauryan rulers developed roads and used messengers to send orders across the empire. This helped them to stay connected with distant provinces. Quick communication ensured that officials followed the emperor's instructions. It also helped in maintaining law and order. Ans: (a) How were messages sent across the Mauryan Empire? • Through a network of royal messengers (<i>dutas</i>) traveling swiftly along developed roads, alongside an efficient intelligence/spy network. (b) How did roads help in administration? • Roads connected the imperial capital with distant provinces, facilitating quick movement of troops, officials, messengers, and royal orders to maintain law and order. (c) What problems could arise without proper communication? • Lack of proper communication could lead to administrative delays, unnoticed provincial revolts, slow military response to foreign invasions, and weak centralized control over distant areas.