

MAURYA & POST MAURYAN PERIOD BASED INDIAN HISTORY MCQ PRACTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PDF WITH EXPLANATION

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Q1. Which of the following statements are correct with regard to the Mauryan king Ashoka?

1. He suppressed a revolt in Taxila during his father Bindusara's reign.
2. According to Taranatha of Tibet Asoka captured power after killing his ninety-nine brothers.
3. The effects of the Kalinga war were described by Asoka himself in the Rock Edict XIII.
4. Asoka embraced Buddhism under the influence of Buddhist monk, Upagupta.

Select the answer from the codes given below:

- a) 1, 3, and 4
 - b) 2, 3, and 4
 - c) 1, 2, and 3
 - d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
-

Q2. Which of the following Ashoka inscriptions is in Kharosthi script?

- a) Khalsi
 - b) Lumbini
 - c) Girnar
 - d) Shahvajgarhi
-

Q3. Who was the last ruler of Sunga dynasty?

- a) Brajamitra
 - b) Agnimitra
 - c) Vasumitra
 - d) Devabhuti
-

Q4. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Chandragupta Maurya embraced Jainism towards the end of his life and stepped down from the throne in favour of his son Bindusara.
2. Bindusara was called by the Greeks as "Amitragatha" meaning slayer of enemies.
3. Bindusara received Deimachus as ambassador from the Syrian king Antiochus I.
4. Bindusara appointed his son Asoka as the governor of Taxila

Select the answer from the codes given below:

- a) 1, 3, and 4
- b) 2, 3, and 4
- c) 1, 2, and 3
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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Q5. Which of the following dynasties circulated the lead coins?

- a) Satavahana
- b) Nand
- c) Maurya
- d) Kushana

Q6. Who was the founder of Chedi dynasty?

- a) Mahameghavahana
- b) Vindhya Shakti
- c) Kharvela
- d) Mahapadam

Q7. After the Kalinga war, Ashoka :

- a) followed the policy of physical occupation more rigorously

- b) restored all the kingdoms he had conquered
 - c) renounced his kingdom and became a sadhu
 - d) abandoned the policy of physical conquests in favour of cultural conquests.
-

Q8. Which of the following would be the most accurate description of the Mauryan monarchy under Ashoka?

- a) Guided democracy
 - b) Enlightened despotism
 - c) Paternal despotism
 - d) Centralised autocracy
-

Q9. Which of the following administrative measures was not undertaken by Ashoka?

- a) Release of the convicts on the mercy petition moved by his ministers
 - b) The monarch started the practice of royal tours and instituted quinquennial circuits of officers
 - c) He tried to save people from miscarriage of justice
 - d) He issued a code of conduct to his officials
-

Q10. The official language of the Satvahanas was

- a) Apabhramsa
 - b) Prakrit
 - c) Sanskrit
 - d) Telugu
-

Q11. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer from the codes given below:

List-I	List-II
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A. Chandragupta	1. Amitrochates Maurya
B. Bindusar	2. Sandrocotts
C. Dakshinapatha	3. Devanampriya
D. Dasharatha	4. Buddha shakya

Codes: A B C D

- a) 2 1 4 3
- b) 3 4 2 1
- c) 3 4 1 2
- d) 1 2 3 4

Q12. Which of the following taxes was paid in cash?

- a) Pranaya
- b) Bhaga
- c) Hiranya
- d) Bali

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Q13. Who among the following was the first Satavahana king to introduce the ruler's head on coins?

- a) Vasishtiputra Pulumavi
- b) Satakarni I
- c) Gautamiputra Satakarni
- d) Yojna Satakarni

Q14. During the reign of Chandragupta Maurya, Pataliputra was administered by a board consisting of the members numbered.

- a) 40
- b) 20
- c) 30
- d) 50

Q15. Who among the following is credited to have performed four Asvamedha sacrifices?

- a) Nandivarman
- b) Pushyamitra Sunga
- c) Pravarasen I
- d) Samudragupta

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Answers to the above questions :

Q1. Answer: (a)

There is little information regarding the early life of Asoka. He acted as Governor of Ujjain and also suppressed a revolt in Taxila during his father Bindusara's reign. There was an interval of four years between Asoka's accession to the throne (273 B.C.) and his actual coronation (269 B.C.).

Therefore, it appears from the available evidence that there was a struggle for the throne after Bindusara's death. The Ceylonese Chronicles, Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa state that Asoka captured power after killing his ninety-nine brothers including the elder brother Susima.

The youngest brother Tissa was spared. But according to Taranatha of Tibet, Asoka killed only six of his brothers. Asoka's Edict also refers to his brothers acting as officers in his administration. However, it is clear that the succession of Asoka was a disputed one.

The most important event of Asoka's reign was his victorious war with Kalinga in 261 B.C. Although there is no detail about the cause and course of the war, the effects of the war were described by Asoka himself in the Rock edict XIII: "A hundred and fifty thousand were killed and many times that number perished..." After the war, he annexed Kalinga to the Mauryan Empire.

Q2. Answer: (d)

The inscriptions of Ashoka are written in two scripts known as Brahmi and Kharosthi. Kharosthi script has been used in the inscriptions found at Shahbazgarhi in Mardan District of KhyberPakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan and Manshera also in Pakistan.

Q3. Answer: (d)

Devabhuti was the last Sunga ruler who was killed by his own minister Vasudeva Kanva in around 73 BC and founded the Kanva dynasty.

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Q4. Answer: (c)

Bindusara is said to have conquered the Deccan up to Mysore. Taranatha, the Tibetan monk states that Bindusara conquered 16 states comprising 'the land between the two seas'. The Sangam Tamil literature also confirms the Mauryan invasion of the far south.

Therefore, it can be said that the Mauryan Empire under Bindusara extended up to Mysore. Bindusara received Deimachus as ambassador from the Syrian king Antiochus I. Bindusara wrote to Antiochus I asking for sweet wine, dried figs and a sophist.

The latter sent all but a sophist because the Greek law prohibited sending a sophist. Bindusara supported the Ajivikas, a religious sect. Bindusara appointed his son Asoka as the governor of Ujjain.

Q5. Answer: (a)

The Satavahana kings mostly used lead as the material for their coins. Next to lead they used an alloy of silver and copper, called 'potin'. Most of the Satavahana coins have on one side the figure of an elephant, horse, lion or Chaitya. The other side shows the so-called Ujjain symbol – a cross with four circles at the end of the two crossing lines.

Q6. Answer: (a)

The Chedis were the original inhabitants of Madhyadesa. Chedis are known from the Hatigumpha Pillar inscription. According to this inscription, Mahameghavahana, a member of the Chedi clan founded the Chedi dynasty. Kharvela was the famed king of Chedi dynasty.

Q7. Answer: (d)

Q8. Answer: (c)

Q9. Answer: (a)

Q10. Answer: (b)

Prakrit is a language of ancient and medieval India which is the ancestor of Marathi, Konkani, Sinhala and Maldivian. It was used in numerous works of literature and its literary use was made famous by the Sanskrit playwright Kalidasa.

Prakrit was commonly spoken until AD 875 and was the official language of the Satavahana dynasty.

Q11. Answer: (a)

- In foreign Greek and Latin accounts, Chandragupta is known as Sandrocottus and Androcottus. He became well known in the Hellenistic world for conquering Alexander the Great's easternmost satrapies, and for defeating the most powerful of Alexander's successors, Seleucus I Nicator, in battle.
- Bindusara Maurya (c. 320 BC – 272 BC) was emperor of the Maurya Empire from 298 BC – 272 BC. During his reign, the empire expanded southwards. The Greeks called him Amitrochates or Allitrochades – the Greek transliteration for the Sanskrit word 'Amitraghata' (Slayer of enemies).
- In the third century B.C., King Ashoka of the Maurya dynasty supported and protected Buddhism and erected stupas and stone pillars at sites associated with Shakyamuni Buddha.
- Dasaratha is known to have dedicated three caves in the Nagarjuni Hills to the Ajivikas. Three inscriptions at the cave refer to him as 'Devanampiya Dasaratha'

Q12. Answer: (c)

Hiranya appears as an item of revenue in the land-grants of the period. Hiranya is taken to be the usual taxes paid in cash or in metallic money

Q13. Answer: (c)

Satavahana dynasty ruled from Pune in Maharashtra to Coastal Andhra Pradesh in the 2nd century BC onwards. Satakarni I was the first Satavahana King to introduce the ruler's head on the coins. The coins issued by Satavahanas had bilingual legends. The name of the Kings was mentioned in Prakrit as well as some south Indian language.

Q14. Answer: (c)

Chandragupta, the founder of the Mauryan Empire was not only a great warrior but also an able administrator. He set up a sound and efficient system of administration in his vast empire. There was a municipal committee of 30 members to look after the affairs of the city. They looked after public buildings, water supply, sanitation, roads, gardens, hospitals, schools, temples and other works of public utility.

Q15. Answer: (c)

The Vakataka emperor Pravarasena I performed four Asvamedha Yajnas. Vakataka dynasty was the most important after the fall of Satavahanas and before the rise of Chalukyas they ruled in modern Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. They were contemporary of Guptas.

The dynasty was founded by Vindhyaashakti but Pravarasena I was the real founder of Vakataka empire.

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