

CLASS VI

CHAPTER – 7
(question – answer)

ASHOKA THE EMPEROR WHO GAVE UP WAR

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Exercises

1. Make a list of the occupations of the people who lived within the Mauryan empire.

Ans: A list of the occupations of the people who lived within the Mauryan empire:

1. Trade or Commerce
2. Jobs with emperor
3. Crafts
4. Agriculture
5. Animal rearing
6. Forest produce-gathering
7. Hunting animals for food
8. Fishing.

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2. Complete the following sentences:

(a) Officials collected..... from the area under the direct control of the ruler.

(b) Royal princes often went to the provinces as.....

(c) The Mauryan rulers tried to control..... and..... which were important for transport.

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(d) People in forested regions provided the Mauryan officials with.....

Ans:

- a) Taxes
- b) governors
- c) roads and rivers
- d) elephants, timber and honey

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3. State whether true or false:

- (a) Ujjain was the gateway to the north-west.
- (b) Chandragupta's ideas were written down in the Arthashastra.
- (c) Kalinga was the ancient name of Bengal.
- (d) Most Ashokan inscriptions are in the Brahmi script.

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Ans:

- a) False
- b) False
- c) false
- d) true

4. What were the problems that Ashoka wanted to solve by introducing 'dhamma'?

Ans:

Emperor Ashoka wanted to solve the following problems by introducing dhamma:

1. Inter-religious conflicts between his subjects.
2. Animal sacrifice during religious rituals.
3. Ill-treatment of servants and slaves.
4. Constant disputes between neighbours over petty issues

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5. What were the means adopted by Ashoka to spread the message of 'dhamma'?

Ans:

Ashoka adopted the following means to spread his message of dhamma:

1. He appointed officials called Dhamma Mahamatta who went to different places to spread the message of dhamma.
2. He had his messages inscribed on pillars, so that common folk could read them.
3. Officials were directed to read out the messages inscribed on pillars to those who could not read.

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6. Why do you think slaves and servants were ill-treated? Do you think the orders of the emperor would have improved their condition? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans: Slaves and servants were ill-treated owing to the following reasons:

1. Most of them were prisoners of war.
2. Some belonged to the lowest social order, specifically Shudras.
3. The concept of human rights was virtually non-existent during that period.

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Their condition would have improved after the order of Emperor because:

1. No one would dare defy the supreme order of the emperor himself.
2. Those who would disobey the emperor would be severely punished by his officials.
3. The Emperor was the supreme commander of the Mauryan Empire. Thus his word was law and had to be obeyed to the fullest extent.

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7. Write a short paragraph explaining to Roshan why the lions are shown on our currency notes. List at least one other object on which you see them.



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Ans: The lions are part of the Lion Capital in Samath. These lions are shown on our currency notes in honour of one of the greatest kings of India, Ashoka, who built the Capital. Moreover, on independence, the lion was recognized as the national animal, so the notes also showed the Lion Capital.

Another object which has the lions are shown are the coins of our currency.

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8. Suppose you had the power to inscribe your orders, what four commands would you like to issue?

Ans: To answer this question, use your own imagination and help from friends and teacher.

Some sample points:

- (i) Slavery be abolished.
- (ii) Animal sacrifice be stopped.

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(iii) People should not fight among themselves.

(iv) No discrimination be practiced based on gender, caste, creed, etc.