

Chapter 5 Kingdoms Kings and An Early Republic

Q.1 State whether true or false:

- a. **Rajas who led the *ashvamedha* horse pass through their lands were invited to the sacrifice.**
- b. **The charioteer sprinkled sacred water on the king**
- c. **Archaeologists have found palaces in the settlements of the *janapadas***
- d. **Pots to store grain were made out of Painted Grey Ware**
- e. **Many cities in *mahajanapadas* were fortified**

Solution:

(a) True

The Rajas who allowed the ashvamedha horse to pass through their lands showed that they accepted the supremacy of the Raja performing the sacrifice. These Rajas were then invited to attend the sacrifice.

(b) False

The charioteer was the raja's companion in the battlefield and bore witness to many of his deeds and exploits. Thus it was the charioteer who sang poems and recounted tales glorifying the deeds of the Raja and Priests performed the rituals including the sprinkling of sacred water on the king.

(c) False

It has been discovered by archaeologists that people lived in huts and kept cattle and other animals in the many settlements of the janapadas

(d) False

Plates and bowls are the most common vessels made out of Painted Grey Ware. These were used on special occasions, for important people, and to serve special food.

(e) True

Most mahajanapadas had a capital city, many of these were fortified.

Q.2 Fill in the chart given below with the terms: hunter-gatherers, farmers, traders, craftspersons, herders.

THOSE WHO PAID TAXES



Solution: Farmers - Gave one-sixth of the produce to the state

Craftspersons- contributed to labour

Herder- contributed in the form of animal produce

Traders - stimulated commercial activity by buying and selling goods

Hunter-gatherers - would provide forest produce such as elephants, furs and other items as a tribute.

Q.3 Who were the groups who could not participate in the assemblies of the *ganas*?

Solution:

The following groups couldn't participate in the assemblies of the *ganas*:

1. Women
2. Dasas, the slaves
3. Kammakaras, the landless labourers

Q.4 Why did the *rajas* of *mahajanapadas* build forts?

Solution: The *rajas* of *mahajanapadas* built forts in order to defend their capital city from attacks by other *rajas*. It is also probable that they wanted to show how rich and powerful they were by building large and powerful walls. The more practical reason could be that it was more easy to govern fortified cities.

Q.5 In what ways are present-day elections different from the ways in which rulers were chosen in *janapadas*?

Solution: In *janapadas*, men became '*rajas*' by performing the Ashvamedha sacrifice. The *rajas* who let the Ashvamedha horse pass through their lands meant that they accepted that the supremacy of the *raja* who wanted to perform the sacrifice.

In modern times leaders are elected through a democratic system. Every citizen who is 18 years or older has the right to cast his/her vote. The candidates who win the majority of votes become public leaders

Q.6 Were there any *janapadas* in your state? If yes, name them. If not, name the *janapadas* that would have been closest to your state, and mention whether they were to the east, west, north or south.

Solution: The answer is subjective to the region and area you live in. Take the assistance of your subject teacher and also the help of the map given on page 57 in the textbook to prepare your answer.

Q.7 Find out whether any of the groups mentioned in answer 2 pay taxes today

Solution: Out of the groups mentioned in answer 2, those that pay taxes are traders today

Q.8 Find out whether the groups mentioned in answer 3 have voting rights.

Solution: Today, voting rights are not decided by gender or profession. Women, 'khammakaras' and 'dastas' - all are entitled to vote today.

