

**Class 6            History**

**Ch.5 The Mauryan Empire**

**I . Multiple choice questions:**

1 . Chandragupta defeated Seleucus in the year:

- a)327                    b) 325  
c) 305                    d) 300

**Ans. c) 305**

2. Who killed the last Mauryan ruler Brihadrath?

- a) Samprati                    b) Pushyamitra  
c) Kunal                    d) None of the above

**Ans. b) Pushyamitra**

3. Which of the following was not a reason for the decline of the Mauryan empire?

- a) Provincial revolts                    b) Greek invasions  
c) Chandragupta's weakness                    d) Weak successors

**Ans. c) Chandragupta's weakness**

4. Ashoka's invaded Kalinga in the year:

- a) 297 BC                    b) 273 BC  
c) 261 BC                    d) 251 BC

**Ans. c) 261 BC**

**II. Fill in the blanks:**

- 1.Chandragupta ascended the throne in 324 BC.
2. Bindusara was the son of Chandragupta and father of Ashoka.
3. Pataliputra was administered by 6 committees of 5 members each.
4. The Greek General Seleucus Nikator sent his ambassador Megasthenes to Chandragupta's court.
5. Ashoka sent his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra to spread his Dhamma.
6. The Indian Republic has adopted the Lion Capital of Sarnath as its national emblem.
7. Pushyamitra killed the last Mauryan ruler Brihadrath and founded the Sunga dynasty.

**III. Name the following:**

1. The author of Arthashastra.

**Ans. Kautilya**

2. The ruler who founded the Mauryan dynasty.

Ans. **Chandragupta**

3. The author of Indika.

Ans. **Megasthenes**

4. The officers who were appointed by Ashoka to spread dhamma.

Ans. **Dhamma Mahamatra**

5. The general of Alexander whom Chandragupta defeated.

Ans. **Seleucus**

**IV. Mark the following statements as True or False:**

1. Chandragupta established the Mauryan dynasty with help of Chanakya.

Ans. **True**

2. Chandragupta Maurya was succeeded by his son Ashoka.

Ans. **False**

3. Ashoka renounced war because he was badly wounded in the battle of Kalinga.

Ans. **False**

4. Brahmi script is written from left to right.

Ans. **True**

5. Land tax was one-sixth of the produce during the Mauryan rule.

Ans. **True**

6. The Mauryan army consisted of infantry, cavalry, elephants and chariots.

Ans. **True**

7. Political stability brought about all-round prosperity during the rule of the Mauryas.

Ans. **True**

8. The weakness of Ashoka's successors was the main cause of the decline of the Mauryan dynasty.

Ans. **True**

**V. Match the columns:**

- |                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Kautilya    | c) Arthashastra                  |
| 2. Megasthenes | d) Indica                        |
| 3. Pushyamitra | e) killed the last Mauryan ruler |
| 4. Brihadrath  | b) the last Mauryan ruler        |

5. Bindusara a) Ashoka's father

#### **VI. Short answer questions:**

##### **1. Who was Megasthenes?**

**Ans.** Megasthenes was a Greek ambassador in the court of Chandragupta. He wrote a book named 'Indika'. The book provides us a lot of information about the political, social and economic conditions in Chandragupta's empire.

##### **2. Who may be called the first historical emperor of India?**

**Ans.** Chandragupta Maurya may be called the first historical emperor of India.

##### **3. Who was Ashoka's father?**

**Ans.** King Bindusara was Ashoka's father.

##### **4. How do you associate the Lion Capital of the Sarnath Pillar with modern India?**

**Ans.** The lion capital of Sarnath Pillar has been adopted by the Indian Republic as its National Emblem. The figure of the four lions is used on the Indian currency. The wheel is shown on the national flag.

##### **5. Who was Chanakya? What were his other names?**

**Ans.** Chanakya was a learned Brahmana of Taxila. He helped Chandragupta Maurya in establishing the Mauryan empire. His other names were Vishnugupta and Kautilya.

#### **6. What do you mean by the term 'Dhamma'?**

**Ans.** The term 'Dhamma' was the Prakrit form of the Sanskrit word dharma.

#### **7. Mention two means by which Ashoka tried to spread his 'dhamma'.**

**Ans.** The two means by which Ashoka tried to spread his dhamma were as follows:

a) Principle of dhamma were engraved on rocks and pillars.

b) Missionaries were sent to Burma (Myanmar), Sri Lanka, Syria, Egypt, and Macedonia. Ashoka sent his son, Prince Mahendra and daughter Sanghamitra to Sri Lanka.

#### **8. Who were Dhamma Mahamatras?**

**Ans.** King Ashoka appointed a special class of officers to monitor the morals of the citizens as well as to spread dhamma. These officers were called Dhamma Mahamatras.

#### **9. Which was the most important pillar of Ashoka? Where is it situated at present?**

**Ans.** The most important pillar of Ashoka is the Sarnath pillar erected at the Deer Park in Uttar Pradesh.

#### **10. Write a note on merchant guilds.**

**Ans.** The Mauryan times witnessed an era of prosperity. Trade was organized in merchant guilds (sanghas and srenis). Guilds used to manage both internal and external trade and industry on a large scale.

**11. Write a note on city administration under the Mauryas.**

**Ans.** The administration of major cities was very well organized. Kautilya mentions that the city was placed under the charge of a Nagraka, that is, the City Magistrate. Megasthenes' description of Pataliputra shows that the city was administered by a committee of 30 officials, divided into 6 committees of 5 members each. These committees looked after different matters related to the city administration.

**Assignment:**

Note down the above work in the Register.