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New Beginnings: Cities and States

Section A: Fill in the blanks (1 mark each).

- The term 'Second Urbanisation' refers to the rise of cities during the _____ millennium BCE.
- The earliest form of organised territory was the _____, meaning 'where people settled'.
- A larger political unit that included multiple janapadas was called a _____.
- The ancient assembly where important matters were discussed was known as _____ or _____.
- The earliest coins in India were called _____ coins and were made of _____.

Section B: Match the following (1 mark each).

A	B	Ans.
a. Mahajanapadas	i. Traders, farmers, and businesspeople	a. _____
b. Vaishali	ii. Teachers and priests	b. _____
c. Brahmins	iii. Artisans, workers, or servants	c. _____
d. Kshatriyas	iv. Magadha and Kosala.	d. _____
e. Vaishyas	v. Capital of the Vajji	e. _____
f. Shudras	vi. Warriors who protected society	f. _____

Section C: Choose the correct option and tick (✓) the right answer (1 mark each).

- Which pair was among the most powerful mahajanapadas?
 - Shurasena and Chewdi
 - Magadha, Kosala and Avanti
 - Matsya and Panchala
 - Vajji and Kamboj
- What is the technique of extracting and shaping iron called?

a. Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Inscription	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Metallurgy	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. None	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Who were supposed to increase society's wealth through trade, business, or agriculture?

a. Shudras	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. Kshatriyas	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Brahmins	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Vaishyas	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. The concept of 'Jati' emerged from which texts?
- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Buddhist texts | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Jain texts | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Vedic texts | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. The Mahabharata | <input type="checkbox"/> |
5. Uttarapatha connected which parts of the Indian subcontinent?
- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Eastern to Western regions | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Northwest to the Ganga Plains | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Southern to Eastern regions | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Western to Southern regions | <input type="checkbox"/> |
6. When did cities begin to emerge in the southern regions of the subcontinent?
- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| a. 700 BCE | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. 400 BCE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. 2000 BCE | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. 800 BCE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
7. Apart from archaeological evidence, which text mentions Mahajanapadas' kingdoms and several of their kings?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| a. The Ramayana | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Foreign entries | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Late Vedic literature | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. Tamil literature | <input type="checkbox"/> |
8. Which Mahajanapada had a republican form of government?
- | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| a. Avanti | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Vajji | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Magadha | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Kashi | <input type="checkbox"/> |
9. In the second millennium BCE, where did regional cultures reorganise themselves?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| a. South India | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. North India | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Eastern part of India | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Central India | <input type="checkbox"/> |
10. When did the Mahajanapadas cease to exist?
- | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| a. 700 BCE | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. 800 BCE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. 300 BCE | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. 900 BCE | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Section D: Write T for True and F for False in the box (1 mark each).

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. The word Janapada means "foot of the king." | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The Mahajanapadas emerged in India during the 1st millennium BCE. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Vajji and Malla were examples of republican Mahajanapadas. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Punch-marked coins were made of gold during the Mahajanapada period. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The capital of Magadha was Rajagriha. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Iron tools helped improve agriculture during the Second Urbanisation. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. All Mahajanapadas followed a democratic form of government. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8. The Arthashastra was written by Chanakya or Kautilya.
9. The Second Urbanisation started in the Indus Valley region.
10. Trade and the use of roads increased during the Mahajanapada period.

Section E: Very Short Answer (1–2 sentences, 2 marks each).

1. What are Janapadas?

Ans. _____

2. What was the role of a Kshatriya in the Varna system?

Ans. _____

3. What is 'Jati'?

Ans. _____

4. What led to the emergence of Mahajanapadas?

Ans. _____

5. Name any four Mahajanapadas.

Ans. _____

6. Describe one feature of the Vajji confederacy's political system.

Ans. _____

7. Who were Shudras in the Varna system?

Ans. _____

8. What is meant by 'Second Urbanisation' in Indian history?

Ans. _____

9. What were punch-marked coins, and why were they important?

Ans. _____

10. What was the Varna system?

Ans. _____

Section F: Two statements are given Assertion (A) And Reason (R). Read them carefully and choose the correct option.(2 marks).

1. Assertion (A): Mahajanapadas were larger and more powerful than janapadas.

Reason (R): Mahajanapadas had better armies, administration, and fortified capitals.

- (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.

Ans. _____

2. Assertion (A): Iron played an important role in the Second Urbanisation.

Reason (R): Iron tools improved agriculture and weapons, helping cities grow.

- (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.

Ans. _____

3. Assertion (A): Vajji was a democratic mahajanapada.

Reason (R): In Vajji, decisions were made by a single hereditary ruler.

- (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.

Ans. _____

4. Assertion (A): Kautilya's Arthashastra described features of a well-organised kingdom.

Reason (R): It suggested building strong capitals with good resources, trade, and defence.

- (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.

Ans. _____

5. Assertion (A): The First Urbanisation of India began during the Harappan civilisation.

Reason (R): The Harappan cities had forts, coins, and iron tools.

- (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.

Ans. _____

Section G: Long Answer Questions (80–120 words).

1. What were the main features of republican Mahajanapadas like Vajji? How were they different from monarchies?

Ans. _____

2. How did changes in agriculture and new technologies help in the growth of Mahajanapadas?

Ans. _____

3. How does Kautilya's Arthashastra help us understand the qualities of a good kingdom and city in ancient India?

Ans. _____

4. How did janapadas grow into mahajanapadas? What were the main reasons behind this development?

Ans. _____

5. Describe the key features of the Second Urbanisation in India during the 1st millennium BCE. How did it differ from the First Urbanisation of the Harappan civilisation?

Ans. _____

Section H: One Word Answer

1. Which metal's use led to agricultural expansion during the Mahajanapada period :- _____
2. Mahajanapadas are mentioned in the Buddhist texts :- _____
3. Government that existed in the Vajji Mahajanapada :- _____
4. Name any one ancient southern kingdom that traded with other countries. :- _____

Section I: The difference between Janapada and mahajanapadas.

Janapada	mahajanapadas

Section J: Label the following mahajanapada the given map.

- Magadha
- Avanti
- Vajji
- Kosala
- Vatsa



Answer**Section A: Fill in the blanks**

1. 1st millennium BCE 2. Janapada 3. Mahajanapada 4. Sabhā or Samiti
5. Punch-marked coins and made of silver

Section B: Match the following

1. a – iv 2. b – v 3. c – ii 4. d – vi 5. e – i
6. f – iii

Section C: MCQs

1. (b) Magadha, Kosala and Avanti 4. (c) Vedic texts 7. (d) Tamil literature
2. (c) Metallurgy 5. (b) Northwest to the Ganga Plains 8. (b) Vajji
3. (d) Vaishyas 6. (b) 400 BCE 9. (b) North India
10. (c) 300 BCE

Section D: True or False

1. False 2. True 3. True 4. False 5. True
6. True 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True

Section E: Very Short Answer

- Janapadas were early territories where people settled and formed communities under a ruler.
- A Kshatriya's role was to protect society and engage in warfare.
- Jati refers to a social group based on traditional occupation passed down generations.
- The emergence of Mahajanapadas was due to growing trade, agriculture, and political unification.
- Magadha, Kosala, Avanti, Vajji.
- Vajji had a democratic system where decisions were taken in assemblies.
- Shudras were workers, artisans, and service providers in society.
- Second Urbanisation refers to the growth of cities in the Ganga plains during the 1st millennium BCE.
- Punch-marked coins were silver coins with symbols used for trade during the Mahajanapada period.
- The Varna system divided society into four classes based on occupation: Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras.

Section F: Assertion & Reason

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.

Section G: Long Answer Questions

- Features of republican Mahajanapadas like Vajji:
 - Had a democratic system
 - Ruled by assemblies, not a single monarch
 - Decisions made by discussion and voting
 - Allowed elected leaders
 - Different from monarchies where the king ruled alone
- Agriculture and Technology:
 - Use of iron tools improved farming
 - More land was cleared for cultivation
 - Better weapons led to stronger states
 - Growth in trade and productivity supported urbanisation
- Kautilya's Arthashastra:
 - Describes ideal city planning, fortifications, economy

- Stresses self-sufficiency, proper roads, and defence
 - Advises strong administration and resource use
 - Highlights sustainable and efficient governance
4. Janapadas to Mahajanapadas:
- Growth in population and trade
 - Political mergers of smaller units
 - Stronger rulers with large armies
 - Capital cities with administration and defence
 - Expansion of agriculture and economy
5. Second vs First Urbanisation:
- Second: Ganga plains, iron tools, fortified cities, coins, Vedic culture
 - First: Indus Valley, bronze tools, planned cities, drainage
 - Second led by new kingdoms; First had uniform administration
 - Second was more politically diverse

Section H: One Word Answer

1. Iron
2. Anguttara Nikaya (Buddhist texts)
3. Republic or Gana-sangha
4. Chola / Chera / Pandya (any one)

Section I: Difference

Janapada	Mahajanapada
1. Smaller territory	1. Larger and more powerful state
2. Basic form of settlement	2. Advanced administration and governance
3. Less organised military	3. Fortified capitals and standing armies
4. Localised trade	4. Expanded trade routes and coin usage

Section J: Map Activity

Use the map you uploaded to label the following Mahajanapadas:

1. Magadha – in present-day Bihar (Rajgir)
2. Kosala – in eastern Uttar Pradesh (Shravasti)
3. Avanti – in western Madhya Pradesh (Ujjain)
4. Vatsa – near Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh (Kaushambi)
5. Vajji – in north Bihar (Vaishali)