

## Chapter 5: State and Society up to 1000 CE

### Section A: Multiple Choice Questions.

- Which Vedic texts discuss the nature of Ātman and Brāhman?
  - Upaniṣhads
  - Brāhmaṇas
  - Sūktas
  - Āraṇyakas
- Which was an important popular gathering in Vedic society?
  - Vidhata
  - Nāḍu
  - Śhreṇī
  - Koṣha
- Larger territorial states were known as:
  - Janas
  - Kulas
  - Mahājanapadas
  - Śhreṇis
- Which empire emerged from the rise of Magadha?
  - Gupta Empire
  - Pallava Empire
  - Chola Empire
  - Mauryan Empire
- The ideal of a universal ruler is known as:
  - Dharma
  - Chakravarti Samrat
  - Mahajanapada
  - Janapada
- Which crop became particularly important in the middle Ganga region?
  - Coffee
  - Cotton
  - Tea
  - Paddy
- Which dynasty ruled the Deccan for nearly 500 years?
  - Gupta Dynasty
  - Satavahana Dynasty
  - Chola Dynasty
  - Pallava Dynasty
- The emblem of the Cholas was:
  - Fish
  - Bow
  - Tiger
  - Elephant
- What title did Rajendra I take after his victories over the Ganga region?
  - Chakravarti
  - Gangaikonda Chola
  - Rajakesari
  - Parakesari
- Which city was the main prize in the Tripartite Struggle?
  - Pāṭaliputra
  - Kannauj
  - Ujjayinī
  - Mathurā

### Section B: Fill in the Blanks.

[Sāndhivigrahika | Puruṣhasūkta | Grāmika | Tamilakam | Society | Bhuktis | Bharata | territorial | Sangam | Vaiśhya]

- A network of social relationships sharing a common culture is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The name \_\_\_\_\_ first appears in the Ṛig Veda.
- The four varṇas are explicitly mentioned in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Ṛig Veda.
- The varṇa traditionally associated with agriculture and trade was the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The political development from janas to large empires shows a shift from kin-based groups to \_\_\_\_\_ states.
- The head of an ancient Indian village was called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Under the Gupta administration, northern provinces were known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- The official responsible for peace and foreign affairs was called the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The earliest Tamil literary tradition is known as \_\_\_\_\_ literature.
- The three crowned kings (Mūvēndar) ruled over parts of \_\_\_\_\_.

### Section C: Match the Following.

#### Column A

- Collections of prayers for sacrifices during a yajna
- A powerful mahājanapada of northern India
- A Vedic group/unit of villages
- The major southern trade route
- Famous ancient university located in the northwest
- An early Vedic deliberation assembly

#### Column B

- Dakṣiṇāpatha
- Viśha
- Takṣhaśhilā
- Sabhā
- Samhitā
- Magadha

**Section D: State whether the following statements are True or False.**

1. The Ṛig Veda provides evidence for ancient Indian history around 2000 BCE. [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]
2. The Atharva Veda consists primarily of musical tunes taken from the Rig Veda. [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]
3. The Saptāṅga theory defines statecraft as consisting of five limbs of the state. [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]
4. The king was considered an important constituent (swami) of the state. [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]
5. The pradeśhika was an ancient village teacher. [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]
6. Early Indian society had no occupational diversity. [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]
7. Different jātis could develop through factors such as occupation, migration & intermarriage. [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]
8. Gurukula education emphasised academic knowledge as well as moral values. [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]
9. Women had no role at all in intellectual or religious life in early India. [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]
10. The Aśhvamedha yajña was a ritual associated with royal power and sovereignty. [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

**Section E: Short Answer Questions.**

1. What were shrenis in ancient India, and what role did they play?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the Saptāṅga theory described in Kautilya's Arthaśāstra?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Differentiate between Gana-Sanghas and monarchical states (Rajyas).

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What was the Kudavolai system used in Chola village administration?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the role of the Gopa in Mauryan local administration?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Explain the difference between Varna and Jati.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

7. What were Variyams in the Chola local governance system?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

8. What was Brahmadeya, and how did it affect society and land expansion?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

9. What was the significance of the Uttarapatha and Dakshinapatha trade routes?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

10. What role did the Gurukula system play in ancient Indian education?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

**Section F: Long Answer Question.**

1. Compare and contrast the roles of the Sabha, Samiti, and Vidhata in managing early clan affairs.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Explain how Janapadas developed into Mahajanapadas. Why did Magadha become the most powerful Mahajanapada?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Describe the political landscape of India between 600 BCE and 300 CE, covering kingdoms in the North, Deccan, and South.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Explain the administrative system of early Indian kingdoms. Mention the role of the Council of Ministers, Provinces, Districts, Villages, and Village Assemblies.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Explain the importance of ports and maritime trade in the development of ancient India.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section G: Answer the following questions in one or two words.

1. Name the four traditional varṇas.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name the four parts of each Veda.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name any four major ancient Indian ports.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name three women associated with the Vedic tradition.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section H: Give One-Word Answers.

1. Name the smallest blood-tie social unit in early India.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Name the ancient Chola ballot-pot system used for village elections.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What were the tax-free land grants given to learned Brahmins called?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What were the specialized executive committees in Chola villages called?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Name the major northern overland trade highway.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Name the famous ancient reservoir in Gujarat repaired by multiple ancient rulers.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Name the ancient southern port city located on the Malabar Coast.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Name the famous ancient university located in modern-day Bihar.

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Name the Vakataka queen who ruled as a regent.

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Name the celebrated ancient Tamil female Sangam poet.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section I: Assertion & Reason Questions.**

**Instructions:** For each question, choose the correct option from the choices below:

- A. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**
- B. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.**
- C. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.**
- D. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.**

1. Assertion (A): The sabhā and samiti played important roles in Vedic political life.

Reason (R): These assemblies provided opportunities for consultation and collective decision-making.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Assertion (A): The gurukula system focused only on academic knowledge.

Reason (R): Gurukula education also emphasised discipline, moral values and practical skills.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Assertion (A): Ports were important centres of ancient Indian trade.

Reason (R): Ports connected India with traders from distant regions through maritime routes.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Assertion (A): Literary sources alone provide a complete picture of ancient Indian society.

Reason (R): Literary texts may reflect the views of particular social groups or ruling elites.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Assertion (A): The Arthaśhāstra provides information about statecraft and administration.

Reason (R): It describes the Saptāṅga theory and various aspects of governance.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

**Section J: Case-Based Questions - Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions.**

Early Indian kingdoms developed an organised system of administration to govern large territories. Kingdoms were divided into provinces, districts and villages. The king was assisted by ministers and officials, while local assemblies managed various village affairs such as irrigation, gardens and temple administration. This system helped rulers maintain control while allowing local communities to manage their own affairs.

(i) Why were kingdoms divided into provinces, districts and villages?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) Who helped the king in governing the kingdom?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) Name one local body that managed village affairs.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

(iv) How did local self-governance benefit the kingdom?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

**Section K: On the outline map of India, locate and label any six of the following important centres and kingdoms of early India:**

- |            |            |                |           |           |
|------------|------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Magadha | 2. Kosala  | 3. Gandhara    | 4. Avanti | 5. Cholas |
| 6. Cheras  | 7. Mathurā | 8. Kānchipuram |           |           |



**Answer****Section A – Multiple Choice Questions**

- |                          |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. a) Upaniṣhads         | 2. a) Vidhata            | 3. c) Mahājanapadas     |
| 4. d) Mauryan Empire     | 5. b) Chakravarti Samrat | 6. d) Paddy             |
| 7. b) Satavahana Dynasty | 8. c) Tiger              | 9. b) Gangaikonda Chola |
| 10. b) Kannauj           |                          |                         |

**Section B: Fill in the Blanks**

- |            |            |                    |            |                |
|------------|------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. Society | 2. Bharata | 3. Puruṣhasūkta    | 4. Vaiśhya | 5. territorial |
| 6. Grāmika | 7. Bhuktis | 8. Sāndhivigrahika | 9. Sangam  | 10. Tamilakam  |

**Section C: Match the Following**

- |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 – e, | 2 – f, | 3 – b, | 4 – a, | 5 – c, | 6 – d, |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|

**Section D: True / false**

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

**Section E: Short Answer Questions (2 MARKS)**

- Shrenis were powerful guilds or trade associations of merchants, artisans, and craftspeople. They regulated product prices, maintained production standards, trained apprentices, and even functioned as local banks.
- The Saptāṅga theory defines a state as an organic body consisting of seven essential limbs: Swami (King), Amatya (Ministers), Janapada (Territory/People), Durga (Fort), Kosha (Treasury), Bala (Army), and Mitra (Ally).
- Monarchical states (Rajyas) were ruled by a single sovereign king with supreme central authority, whereas Gana-Sanghas were oligarchic republics where decision-making power was shared by an assembly of clan heads.
- The Kudavolai was an ancient election method used by Chola village assemblies (Sabhas) to select executive committee members. Names of eligible candidates were written on palm leaves, placed in a pot, and drawn by a young boy.
- A Gopa was an administrative official responsible for keeping detailed records of land, census, professions, and revenue collection for a cluster of five to ten villages.
- Varna refers to the broader, conceptual four-fold social hierarchy based on functional roles, whereas Jati refers to thousands of localized, birth-based occupational sub-castes that evolved over time.
- Variyams were specialized executive sub-committees appointed by the Chola village assembly (Sabha) to look after specific local matters like irrigation, roads, gardens, temples, and tax collection.
- Brahmadeya referred to tax-free land grants given by kings to learned Brahmins or religious institutions. It helped bring new uncultivated lands under agriculture and expanded agrarian settlements into tribal regions.
- The Uttarapatha connected northern and northwestern overland regions, while the Dakshinapatha linked northern plains across the Vindhyas to the Deccan and South India, facilitating internal trade, cultural exchange, and troop movement.
- The Gurukula system was a residential educational setup where students lived with their teacher (Guru). It emphasized academic learning alongside practical discipline, ethical values, self-reliance, and oral mastery of texts.

**Section F: Long Answer Questions. (5 marks)**

- The Sabhā, Samiti and Vidhata were important assemblies in early Vedic society.
  - Sabhā: It was an assembly that dealt mainly with justice, discussion and important social matters.
  - Samiti: It was a broader assembly that discussed important political matters and collective decisions.
  - Vidhata: It was an important gathering associated with social, religious and community activities.
  - These assemblies provided opportunities for consultation and participation in the affairs of the clan.
  - Together, they helped in the organisation and management of early Vedic society.
- The development from Janapadas to Mahājanapadas took place as early communities became more

settled and powerful.

- Early janas were mainly kin-based groups.
- As people settled in particular territories, these groups developed into Janapadas, or territorial states.
- Some Janapadas gradually became larger and more powerful and were known as Mahājanapadas.
- Magadha became the most powerful because of its fertile land, rivers, iron resources and strategic location.
- Strong rulers, a well-organised army and effective administration helped Magadha expand its territory and influence.

3. During 600 BCE and 300 CE, India's political landscape was highly diverse and spread across three major geographical regions:

- Northern India: It featured monarchical states (rajyas) ruled by powerful kings like Magadha, and republican states (ganas or samghas) where power was shared by a council.
- The Deccan Region: After the decline of the Mauryas, the Satavahana Empire became a major power and maintained stability for nearly 500 years.
- Southern India: Regional powers such as the Cholas, Pandyas, Keralaputras and Satiyaputras flourished and developed their own trade-oriented societies.

Thus, different regions of India developed distinct political systems and powerful regional kingdoms.

4. Early Indian kingdoms developed an organised administrative system to govern their large territories.

- The king was the supreme authority and was assisted by a Council of Ministers.
  - Large kingdoms were divided into provinces for easier administration.
  - Provinces were further divided into districts and smaller administrative units.
  - The village was generally the smallest administrative unit.
  - Village assemblies managed local matters such as irrigation, revenue collection and other community affairs.
  - This system helped combine central authority with local self-governance.
5. Ports and maritime trade played an important role in the economic development of ancient India.
- Ports were important centres of trade and commerce.
  - Major ports included Muziris, Kāveripaṭṭinam, Arikameḍu and Masulipaṭnam.
  - Maritime trade connected India with different regions through coastal and long-distance routes across the Indian Ocean.
  - Trade links encouraged the exchange of goods and wealth between Indian and foreign traders.
  - By the early centuries CE, India's trade with Rome had expanded through both sea routes and overland connections via Central Asia.

Section G: Answer the following

- |                                                     |                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Brāhmaṇa, Kṣatriya, Vaiśya, Śūdra                | 2. Samhita, Brahmana, Aranyaka, Upanishad |
| 3. Muziris, Kāveripaṭṭinam, Arikamedu, Masulipatnam | 4. Ghoṣā, Lopāmudrā, Apālā                |

Section H: One-Word Answer

- |               |              |               |                    |                |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Kula       | 2. Kudavolai | 3. Brahmadeya | 4. Variyams        | 5. Uttarapatha |
| 6. Sudarshana | 7. Muziris   | 8. Nālandā    | 9. Prabhāvatīguptā | 10. Avvaiyār   |

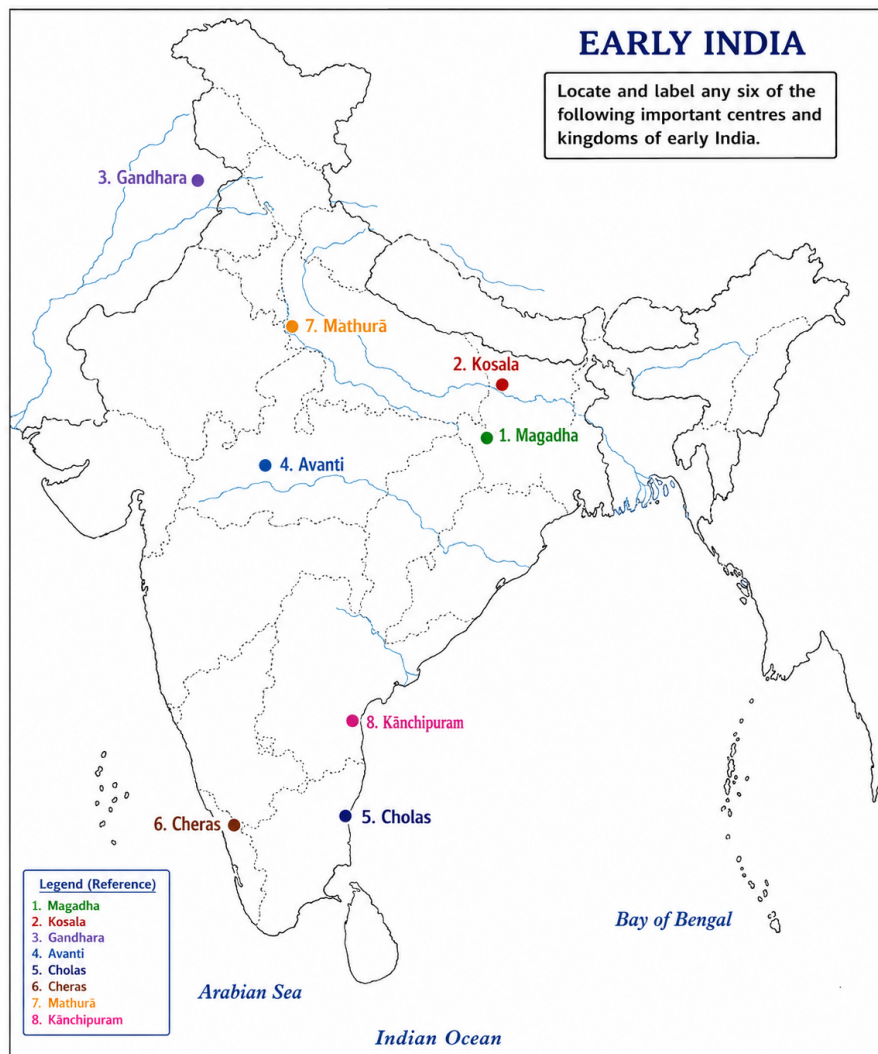
Section I: Assertion & Reason – Answers

- |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. A | 2. D | 3. A | 4. D | 5. A |
|------|------|------|------|------|

Section J: Case-Based Questions

1. They were divided into smaller units to make administration easier and more effective.
2. Ministers and officials helped the king in administration.
3. The village assembly (Variyam) managed local affairs.
4. It allowed local communities to manage their own affairs efficiently, reducing the burden on the central administration.

Section K: On the outline map of India



One Point Learning