New Beginnings: Cities and States

Standard difficulty · 20 questions · 40 marks · Time: 37 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 40

Write full answers in Sections B and C. Answers are on the last page — try every question first!

Section A — Choose the correct answer — 8 × 1 = 8 marks

1. The Harappan civilisation is called India's:
   (a) Gupta Age **(b)** Mauryan Empire
   (c) Second Urbanisation **(d)** First Urbanisation

2. What is meant by "moat"?
   (a) a water-filled ditch around a fort or city
   (b) an early silver coin with symbols stamped on it
   (c) food grown beyond what the farmers themselves need
   (d) a strong wall built around a city for defence

3. Which of these mahajanapadas was a republic?
   (a) Vatsa **(b)** Avanti **(c)** Magadha **(d)** Vajji

4. Which word means food grown beyond what the farmers themselves need?
   (a) moat **(b)** janapada
   (c) surplus **(d)** punch-marked coin

5. Which of these helped the Second Urbanisation?
   (a) electric lights in the streets **(b)** paper money printed by banks
   (c) trade by aeroplane **(d)** long trade routes like Uttarapatha

6. An ancient city was built on a square plan, each side 700 m long, like Shishupalgarh. How long was the wall all round it?
   (a) 2,800 m **(b)** 2,900 m **(c)** 1,400 m **(d)** 490,000 m

7. A farming family with iron tools grows 1,400 kg of grain and eats 800 kg. How much surplus can feed people in the city?
   (a) 700 kg **(b)** 2,200 kg **(c)** 600 kg **(d)** 800 kg

8. A trader pays 5 punch-marked coins for each bundle of cloth. How many bundles can 35 coins buy?
   (a) 175 bundles **(b)** 35 bundles **(c)** 7 bundles **(d)** 9 bundles

Section B — Short answer — 8 × 2 = 16 marks

9. What is the difference between a janapada and a mahajanapada?

10. Explain each term: (a) surplus (b) fortification

11. Was each a kingdom or a republic? (a) Magadha (b) Malla

12. Say what each was: (a) Shishupalgarh (b) Kodumanal

13. A square fortified city has sides of 900 m. A moat 50 m wide runs outside the wall. (a) How long is the wall? (b) Why was the moat dug?

14. A caravan of traders on Uttarapatha covers about 25 km a day. How many days will a 560 km stretch take?

15. In a village, 52 farming families each produce a surplus of 50 kg of grain. How much surplus does the village produce?

16. Say whether each mahajanapada was a kingdom or a republic: (a) Magadha (b) Kosala (c) Vajji

Section C — Longer answers — 4 × 4 = 16 marks

17. Explain how janapadas grew into mahajanapadas.

18. Match each with its meaning: (a) moat (b) fortification (c) janapada. Choose from: a water-filled ditch around a fort or city; a strong wall built around a city for defence; a clan territory, “the place where the people have set foot”.

19. Avanti and Kosala were kingdoms; Malla was a republic. Explain how each was governed, and give one advantage of rule by an assembly.

20. A farmer grows 4,000 kg of grain and the family eats 1,200 kg. (a) What is the surplus? (b) If it is shared equally among 4 city families, how much does each get? (c) Why was surplus food needed for cities to grow?

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Answer key

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Q	Answer	Working
1	(d) First Urbanisation	—
2	(a) a water-filled ditch around a fort or city	—
3	(d) Vajji	—
4	(c) surplus	—
5	(d) long trade routes like Uttarapatha	—
6	(a) 2,800 m	4 × 700
7	(c) 600 kg	1,400 − 800
8	(c) 7 bundles	35 ÷ 5
9	A janapada was a clan territory led by a raja; a mahajanapada was a larger state formed when janapadas merged.	—
10	(a) food grown beyond what the farmers themselves need (b) a strong wall built around a city for defence	—
11	(a) a kingdom (b) a republic	—
12	(a) capital of Kalinga, on a square plan (b) a southern craft centre for shell and gem work	—
13	(a) 3,600 m (b) To make it hard for attackers to reach the wall.	4 × 900
14	23 days	560 ÷ 25, rounded up
15	2,600 kg	52 × 50
16	(a) kingdom (b) kingdom (c) republic	—
17	Clans settled in territories called janapadas; over time some grew stronger, merged with or conquered others, and became large states called mahajanapadas, with capitals, armies and taxes.	—
18	(a) a water-filled ditch around a fort or city (b) a strong wall built around a city for defence (c) a clan territory, “the place where the people have set foot”	—
19	Avanti: ruled by a king whose power passed in the family. Malla: decisions taken by an assembly (gana or	—

Q	Answer	Working
	sangha) of representatives. An assembly lets many voices be heard.	
20	**(a) 2,800 kg (b) 700 kg (c) City people such as craftspeople, traders and soldiers did not grow food, so farmers had to grow extra to feed them.**	4,000 − 1,200; ÷ 4

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