

**STD - VI**  
**SOCIAL STUDY**  
**DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST EMPIRE**

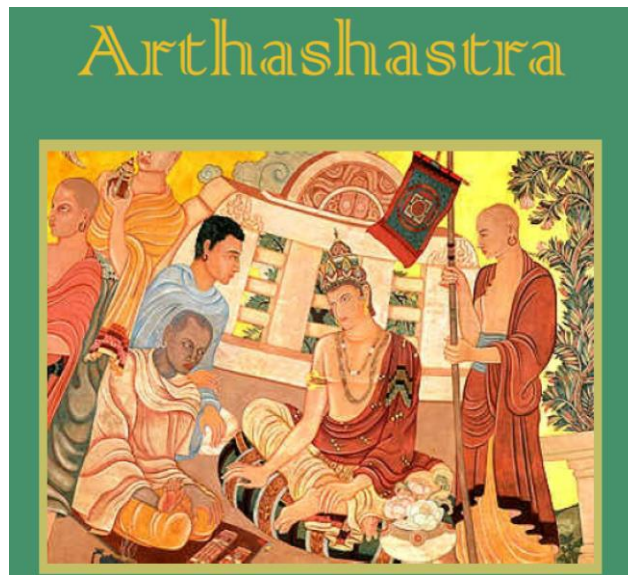
ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

Q1. What is a dynasty?

Ans. Dynasty is a series of rulers belonging to the same family. Normally the son succeeds the father.

Q2. Who wrote Arthshastra? What is it about?

Ans. Arthshastra was written by Chanakya. It is a book about how a king should rule and how a government should be run.



Q3. Name three great rulers of the Mauryan empire?

Ans. The three great rulers of the Mauryan empire are-

- Chandragupta Maurya
- Bindusara
- Ashoka the great.



King Ashoka

Q4. What was the extent of Ashoka's empire?

Ans. Ashoka's empire extended roughly from the Hindu Kush and Himalayas in the north to river Pennar in the south.

From the North West frontier to the plains of Bengal in the East.



Q5. What effect did the Kalinga war have on Ashoka?

Ans. Ashoka conquered Kalinga. Thousands on both sides were killed and wounded during the war. The bloodshed and the wailing of widows and orphans completely changed Ashoka's attitude towards expansion through war. He gave up war and adopted the path of peaceful conquest.



Q6. What was Ashoka's dhamma based on?

Ans. Ashoka's dhamma was deeply influenced by Buddhism and was based on tolerance, non-violence and respect for elders.

Q7. How did Maurya king personally keep a check on his people?

Ans. Mauryan king personally went on secret inspection tours in disguise to see that everything was running properly.

Q8. What did Mauryan army consist of?

Ans. Mauryan army consisted of:

- Infantry (foot soldiers).
- Cavalry (horsemen).
- Chariots.
- Elephants.
- Transport and Navy.

Q9. Why did Mauryas maintain a spy system?

Ans. The Mauryas maintained a spy system because:

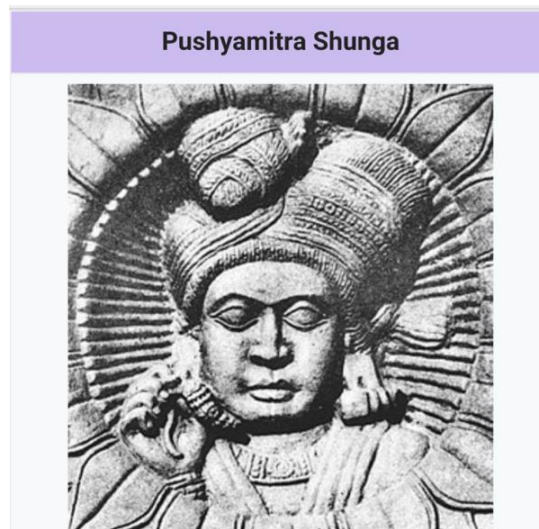
- According to Arthashastra, a ruler can ensure justice to his people only when he keeps himself fully informed about what is going on within his empire.
- They did this with the help of a network of men and women spies posted within the army and in households.
- They had their spies at trading communities, offices, education centres, rest houses and prisons too.

Q10. Why did Mauryan power decline after Ashoka?

Ans. Mauryan power declined after Ashoka because:

- Ashoka was succeeded by a series of weak rulers.
- The system of administration began to collapse.

- In 185 BC, Brihadratha, the last Mauryan ruler, was murdered by Pushyamitra Shunga.
- Thus, the Mauryan dynasty came to an end.



Q11. How did James Prinsep's work help historians to learn about Ashoka's reign?

Ans. James Prinsep's work helped historians to learn about Ashoka's reign as:-

- James Prinsep was a scholar who deciphered the Ashokan script and identified it as Brahmi.
- These inscriptions provided valuable information about the reign of king Ashoka and the extent of his empire.



James Prinsep

Q12. How were cities administered under the Maurya?

Ans. Cities were well administered under the Maurya:-

- The capital city Patliputra was situated near the confluence of the rivers Son and Ganga.
- Beside the capital, the most important cities were perhaps Ujjain and Taxila.
- A royal highway connected Patliputra with Taxila.

- Each city was administered by a committee which took care of the department of industries, foreigners, registration of births and deaths, sanitation, weights and measures, and public utilities.

Q13. Write briefly about the Mauryan system of taxes.

Ans. The system of taxes of Mauryans:

- Tax was collected in both cash and kind.
- Land tax, which varied from one sixth to one fourth of the produce was the main source of revenue.
- Other major sources of revenue were customs duty, sales tax and taxes on crafts and trade.
- The Arthshastra also mentions a water tax.



Q14. What measures did Ashoka adopt for the welfare of his subjects?

Ans. Ashoka's welfare works for his people were as follows:

- Ashoka planted fruit - bearing trees on the both sides of roads.
- He made rest houses for the travelers.
- He also set up hospitals for the sick.

Q15. What steps did Ashoka take to spread Buddhism?

Ans. Efforts to spread Buddhism:

- Ashoka issued edicts to spread the message of dhamma.
- The edicts were written in local scripts.
- Ashoka himself toured the kingdom to spread the message of dhamma.

- He appointed special officers called dharmamahamatras to interpret and carry out royal order.
- He sent his son Mahendra and daughter Sanghmitra to Sri Lanka to spread the teachings of Buddha beyond the borders of India.

