

BOARD-PATTERN PRACTICE PAPER · CBSE CLASS 12**Kings, Farmers and Towns — Early States and Economies**

History · Chapter 2 · Matches current CBSE blueprint · Each question PYQ-sourced where indicated

DATE	TOTAL MARKS	DURATION	MARKING	TARGET
_____	30	60 min	As per board	≥ 24/30

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- All questions are compulsory.
- Specific facts (dates, names, the five political centres) are mandatory for full marks.
- Source-based questions require quoting/referencing evidence from the passage.
- State debated points (e.g. land grants) from both sides where asked.

Section A — VSA (1 mark × 4)**4 MARKS · 8 MIN**

- Q1.** Who deciphered the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts in 1838? [PYQ 2018 Delhi] **[1 mark]**
- Q2.** Name any two of the five major political centres of the Mauryan Empire. [PYQ 2019 All India] **[1 mark]**
- Q3.** To whom is the Arthashastra attributed? [PYQ 2022 Delhi] **[1 mark]**
- Q4.** What does the Kushana title 'Devaputra' mean? [PYQ 2023 Delhi] **[1 mark]**

Section B — SA-I (3 marks × 2)**6 MARKS · 12 MIN**

- Q5.** What are the limitations of inscriptional evidence? (any three) [PYQ 2020 All India] **[3 marks]**
- Q6.** Why did Magadha become the most powerful Mahajanapada? [PYQ 2021 Delhi] **[3 marks]**

Section C — SA-II (5 marks × 2)**10 MARKS · 20 MIN**

- Q7.** Describe the administration of the Mauryan Empire, including the role of the five political centres. [PYQ 2023 All India] **[5 marks]**
- Q8.** Explain the new notions of kingship that emerged under the Kushanas and the Satavahanas. [PYQ 2020 Delhi] **[5 marks]**

Section D — Source-based (10 marks)**10 MARKS · 20 MIN**

- Q9.** Read the passage and answer the three sub-questions. **PASSAGE** (adapted from a Major Rock Edict of Asoka): 'Beloved-of-the-Gods, King Piyadassi, conquered the Kalingas eight years after his coronation. One hundred and fifty thousand were deported, one hundred thousand were killed, and many more died. After the Kalingas had been conquered, Beloved-of-the-Gods came to feel a strong inclination towards Dhamma, a love for Dhamma and for instruction in Dhamma. Now Beloved-of-the-Gods feels deep remorse for having conquered the Kalingas.' **SUB-QUESTIONS:** (a) Who is 'Beloved-of-the-Gods, King Piyadassi', and how do we know? (b) What change did the Kalinga war bring about in the king, according to the edict? (c) What was Asoka's 'Dhamma', and how did he try to spread it across the empire? [PYQ 2024 Delhi] **[10 marks]**

Marking scheme & model answers — see companion Answer Key PDF · all PYQs traceable to actual CBSE papers · readyforboards.com · +91 70330 05444