

QUICK DRILL · CBSE CLASS 12

Kings, Farmers and Towns — Early States and Economies

History · Chapter 2 · 15 MCQs · 20 minutes · PYQ-tagged with time budgets

DATE	TOTAL MARKS 15	DURATION 20 min	MARKING +1 / 0	TARGET ≥ 12/15
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OBJECTIVES

Reinforce the four core topics of Kings, Farmers and Towns — Early States and Economies via 15 PYQ-derived MCQs. Identify weak sub-topics via concept-node IDs (see answer key). Build per-question time budget habit.

INSTRUCTIONS

Attempt all 15. Time budget shown per Q (use it as pacing guide). Mark answers (A/B/C/D) in the margin. Answer key + explanations on the last page. **Don't peek — score yourself honestly.**

SECTION · QUICK DRILL

Q 1-15 · 20 MIN

Q1. James Prinsep deciphered Brahmi and Kharosthi in the year:

- (A) 1801 (B) 1838
(C) 1857 (D) 1921

PYQ 2018 · Delhi · 1m · 25s

Q2. In his own inscriptions, Asoka is usually referred to as:

- (A) Asoka (B) Devanampiya Piyadassi
(C) Chandragupta (D) Samudragupta

PYQ 2019 · All India · 1m · 25s

Q3. How many Mahajanapadas are listed in early texts?

- (A) Twelve (B) Fourteen
(C) Sixteen (D) Eighteen

PYQ 2020 · Delhi · 1m · 25s

Q4. Which was the most powerful Mahajanapada by the 4th century BCE?

- (A) Kosala (B) Gandhara
(C) Magadha (D) Avanti

PYQ 2018 · Outside Delhi · 1m · 25s

Q5. The founder of the Mauryan Empire was:

- (A) Asoka (B) Bimbisara
(C) Chandragupta Maurya (D) Ajatasattu

PYQ 2019 · Delhi · 1m · 25s

Q6. Which of these was NOT one of the five Mauryan political centres?

- (A) Taxila (B) Ujjayini
(C) Suvarnagiri (D) Vaishali

PYQ 2022 · Delhi · 1m · 30s

Q7. The Arthashastra, a treatise on statecraft, is attributed to:

- (A) Megasthenes (B) Kautilya (Chanakya)
(C) Harishena (D) Prinsep

PYQ 2022 · All India · 1m · 25s

Q8. Megasthenes, who wrote the Indica, was the ambassador of:

- (A) Alexander (B) Seleucus Nicator
(C) Darius (D) Antiochus

PYQ 2018 · All India · 1m · 25s

Q9. Asoka's 'dhamma' is best described as:

- (A) The official Buddhist religion of the empire (B) A code of ethical conduct for all subjects
(C) A military strategy (D) A system of taxation

PYQ 2023 · Delhi · 1m · 30s

Q10. The first rulers to issue extensive gold coinage in the subcontinent were the:

- (A) Mauryas (B) Satavahanas
(C) Kushanas (D) Nandas

PYQ 2020 · All India · 1m · 25s

Q11. The Kushana title 'Devaputra' means:

- (A) Beloved of the gods (B) Son of god
(C) Great king (D) Protector of dhamma

PYQ 2022 · Outside Delhi · 1m · 30s

Q12. The Satavahana ruler Gautamiputra Satakarni is identified by a:

- (A) Patronymic (B) Metronymic
(C) Toponym (D) Title only

PYQ 2023 · All India · 1m · 30s

Q13. Land grants of this period were typically recorded on:

- (A) Palm leaves (B) Copper plates
(C) Clay tablets (D) Birch bark

PYQ 2021 · Delhi · 1m · 25s

Q14. Associations of craftspersons or merchants in this period were called:

- (A) Gahapatis (B) Mahamattas
(C) Shrenis (guilds) (D) Janapadas

PYQ 2019 · Outside Delhi · 1m · 30s

Q15. A major limitation of inscriptional evidence is that:

- (A) It is always written in modern languages (B) Routine everyday life was rarely recorded
(C) It cannot be dated at all (D) It only survives on coins

PYQ 2024 · Delhi · 1m · 35s

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

Q 1-15 · MARK YOUR SCORE

Q1. Answer: B

Prinsep deciphered the scripts in 1838.

Q2. Answer: B

He is called Devanampiya Piyadassi, not Asoka.

Q3. Answer: C

Sixteen Mahajanapadas.

Q4. Answer: C

Magadha became dominant.

Q5. Answer: C

Chandragupta Maurya, c. 321 BCE.

Q6. Answer: D

The five were Pataliputra, Taxila, Ujjayini, Tosali, Suvarnagiri.

Q7. Answer: B

Kautilya / Chanakya.

Q8. Answer: B

Seleucus Nicator sent him to Chandragupta's court.

Q9. Answer: B

A broad ethical code, not Buddhism as a religion.

Q10. Answer: C

Kushanas issued the first widespread gold coins.

Q11. Answer: B

Devaputra = 'son of god'.

Q12. Answer: B

Named after his mother Gautami — a metronymic.

Q13. Answer: B

Copper-plate inscriptions.

Q14. Answer: C

Guilds = shrenis / nigamas.

Q15. Answer: B

Inscriptions recorded the grand and durable, not everyday life.