



Pre-Mix

History

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Mahajanapadas

Q.1) Which of the following kingdoms are correctly matched with their capital?

1. Koshala- Shravasti
2. Vatsa- Vaishali
3. Anga- Champa
4. Vajji- Kushinara

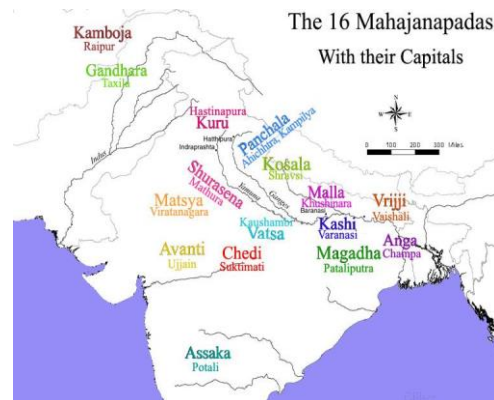
Select the correct options:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

Answer: C

Explanation

Sl. No.	Mahajanapadas	Capital	Modern location
1	Anga	Champa	Munger and Bhagalpur
2	Magadh	Girivraja / Rajagir	Gaya and Patna
3	Kasi	Kasi	Banaras
4	Vatsa	Kausambi	Allahabad
5	Kosala	Sravasti	Eastern Uttar Pradesh
6	Saurasena	Mathura	Mathura
7	Panchala	Ahichchatra and Kampilya	Western Uttar Pradesh
8	Kuru	Indraprastha	Merrut and S.E. Haryana
9	Matsya	Viratnagar	Jaipur
10	Chedi	Sothivati / Banda	Bundelkhanda
11	Avanti	Ujjain / Mahismati	Madhya Pradesh & Malwa
12	Gandhar	Taxila	Rawalpindi
13	Kamboj	Pooncha	Rajori & Hajra (Kashmir)
14	Asmaka	Pratishthan / Paithan	Bank of Godavari
15	Vajji	Vaishali	Vaishali
16	Malla	Kusinara	Deoria & U.P.



Q.2) With reference to Ancient Indian history, Kaushaka is referred to as

- A. Kasi
- B. Kosala
- C. Kapilvastu
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- Kaushaka is referred to as Kasi by Alberuni.
- The Kasis were Aryan people who had settled in the region around Varanasi (formerly called Banaras).
- The capital of Kasi was at Varanasi, which took its name from the rivers Varuna and Asi which made up its north and south boundaries.
- Before the time of Buddha, Kasi was the most powerful of the 15 Mahajanapadas.
- Several Jatakas (folktales about the previous incarnations of Buddha) bear witness to the superiority of its capital over other cities of India and speaks high of its prosperity and opulence.

- The Jatakas speak of long rivalry of Kasi with Kosala, Anga and Magadha.
- A struggle for supremacy went on among them for a time. King Brihadratha of Kasi had conquered Kosala, but Kasi was later incorporated into Kosala by King Kansa during Buddha's time.
- The Kasis along with the Kosalas and Videhans are mentioned in Vedic texts and appear to have been closely allied peoples.
- Matsya Purana and Alberuni read Kasi as Kausika and Kaushaka respectively; all other ancient texts read Kasi.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Mahajanapadas.

1. Magadha embraced the former districts of Patna, Gaya and parts of Shahbad.
2. The ancient Buddhist text Anguttara Nikaya, gives a list of 16 great nations.
3. People owed strong allegiance to the territory to which they belonged and not their tribe.

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- Mahajanapadas literally "Great Kingdoms" (from Maha, "great," and Janapada "foothold of a tribe," "country") refers to 16 monarchies and 'republics' that stretched across the Indo-Gangetic plains from modern-day Afghanistan to Bangladesh in the sixth century B.C.E., prior to and during the rise of Buddhism in India.
- They represent a transition from a semi-nomadic tribal society to an agrarian-based society with a vast network of trade and a highly-organized political structure.
- Many of these "kingdoms" functioned as republics governed by a general assembly and a council of elders led by an elected "king consul."
- The Mahajanapadas are the historical context of the Sanskrit epics, such as the Mahabharata and the Ramayana as well as Puranic literature (the itihasa).
- They were also the political and social context in which Buddhism and Jainism emerged and developed.
- The ancient Buddhist text Anguttara Nikaya, gives a list of 16 great nations.

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Magadha's success.

1. Magadha enjoyed an advantageous geographical position in the age of iron.
2. The formation of largest state in India was due to Bindusara, Ajatashatru and Mahapadma Nanda.
3. Magadha were the first to use elephants on a large scale in its wars.

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- The development of a stable agricultural society led to concepts of private property and land revenue, and to new forms of political and economic organization.
- Commerce among the Janapadas expanded through the Ganges Valley, and powerful urban trading centers emerged.
- Craftsmen and traders established guilds (shrem) and a system of banking and lending, issuing script and minting coins, of which the earliest were silver-bent bars and silver and copper punch-marked coins.
- Magadha were the first to use elephants on a large scale in its wars.
- The eastern part of the country could supply elephants to the princess of Magadha, and we learn from Greek sources that the Nandas maintained 6000 elephants.
- Magadha enjoyed an advantageous geographical position in the age of iron because the richest iron deposits were situated not far away from the Rajgir, earliest capital of Magadha.

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. The state of Avanti was divided into two parts but had Ujjain as its only capital.
2. Bimbisara acquired Anga and placed it under the viceroyalty of Ajatashatru.

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- The state of Avanti was divided into two parts but had two capitals namely- Ujjain and Mahishmati.
- Avanti was an important kingdom of western India and was one of the four great monarchies in India when Buddhism arose, the other three being Kosala, Vatsa and Magadha.
- Avanti was divided into north and south by the river Vetravati.
- Initially, Mahishati (Sanskrit Mahishamati) was the capital of Southern Avanti, and Ujjaini (Sanskrit Ujjayini) the capital of northern Avanti, but in the times of Mahavira and Buddha, Ujjaini was the capital of integrated Avanti.
- The country of Avanti roughly corresponded to modern Malwa, Nimar and adjoining parts of the Madhya Pradesh.

- Both Mahishmati and Ujjaini were located on the southern high road called Dakshinapatha extending from Rajagriha to Pratishthana (modern Paithan).
- Avanti was an important center of Buddhism and some of the leading theras and theris were born and resided there.
- Avanti later became part of the Magadhan empire when King Nandivardhana of Avanti was defeated by king Shishunaga of Magadha.