

CBSE Class –VI HISTORY
NCERT Solutions
Chapter 8
ASHOKA, THE EMPEROR WHO GAVE UP WAR

Question 1. Make a list of the occupations of the people who lived within the Mouryan empire.

Answer. The occupations followed by the people were:

1. Farming.
 2. Pastoral farming.
 3. Food gathering in the forest.
 4. Masonry.
 5. Carpentry
 6. Stone cutting and craftsmanship.
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Question 2. complete the following sentences:

- Answer.** (a) Officials collected **taxes** from the area under the direct control of the ruler.
(b) Royal princes often went to the provinces as **governors**.
(c) The Mauryan rulers tried to control **roads** and **rivers** which were important for transport.
(d) People in forested regions provided the Mauryan officials with **tribute**.
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Question 3. State whether True or False.

- (a) Ujjain was the gateway to the north-west. (**False**)
 - (b) Chandragupta's ideas were written down in the Arthashastra. (**False**)
 - (c) Kalinga was the ancient name of Bengal. (**False**)
 - (d) Most Ashokan inscription are in Brahmi script. (**True**)
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Question 4. What were the problems that Ashoka wanted to solve by introducing Dhamma?

Answer. Ashoka ,the most famous of all Mouryan rulers,was the first king to unify India.He invaded Kalinga but after the war of Kalinga,Ashoka turned away from war and adopted the policy of Dhamma. There were a number of problems that troubled Ashoka while introducing Dhamma. People in the empire followed different religions and this sometimes led to conflict. Animals were sacrificed. Slaves and servants were ill-treated. There were quarrels in the family and among the neighbours.This policy was meant to bring the people of his empire together and inculcate in them a sprit of tolerance,non-violence,and respect for each other.He felt it was his moral duty to solve the problems of his subjects

Question 5. What were the means adopted by Ashoka to spread the message of Dhamma?

Answer. The means adopted by Ashoka to spread the message of Dhamma were:

- 1.He appointed officials known as dhamma-mahamatras to spread and explain the message of Dhamma.
 2. He wrote his message on rocks ,caves,boulders and stone pillars which were erected in different parts of the empire.Ashoka himself went on tours of inspection called dhamma yatras.
 - 3.They were written in Prakrit, the language of the common people.
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Question 6. Why do you think slaves and servants were ill-treated? Do you think the orders of the emperor would have improved their condition? Give your reasons for your answer.

Answer. The slaves were mostly prisoners of war and servants did menial jobs.If they were ill-treated , the emperor could have made the slaves free .And if the servants were ill-treated the master could be punished.He encouraged his subjects to be kind and charitable to all,

Question 7. Write a short paragraph explaining to Roshan why the lions are shown on our currency notes. List at least one other object on which can you seen them.

Answer. If you look at the Ashokan pillar at Sarnath (or a picture of it) you will find the capital of the pillar has 4 lions sitting back to back the bull, the elephant and the galloping horse. The lion represents the attainment of Buddha-hood. The four lions surmounting the

capital symbolize the kingship of the Buddha and his roar over the four directions.

There is also a non-religious interpretation to the symbol, describing the four lions as the symbol of Ashoka rule in four directions.

Just Buddha his follower Ashoka wanted to spread message a peace and friendship. Similarly India after she gained independence wanted to spread the same message. So India adopted the emblem of 4 lions after she gained independence. We can find this emblem on the official letterhead of the Government of India and appears on all Indian currency as well as cars of the President of India. Prime Minister and other Indian dignitaries. It can also be seen on the epaulette (shoulder ornament on a navy or military officer's uniform) and on the diplomatic and national Passport of the Republic of India.

Question 8. Suppose you had the power to inscribe your orders, what four commands would you like to issue?

Answer. If I had the power to inscribe my orders,I would like to issue the following orders.

1. Respect your parents and elders.
2. All religions are equal and praise worthy.
3. Respect the laws of the country and the rules.
4. Everyone has right to education. All children, whether boys or girls, should be sent to school.