

Class Notes	
Class: VI	Topic: History Ch. 7. Ashoka the emperor who gave up war.
Subject: Social Science	

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS

Q 1. What were the problems that Ashoka wanted to solve by introducing 'dhamma'?

Ans:

The problems Ashoka wanted to solve by introducing dhamma were:

1. Communalism (He wanted communal harmony within his state).
2. Violence or killing of animals (He wanted animal protection or Ahimsa or Non-violence).
3. Cruelty (He liked mercy or kindness towards slaves and servants).
4. To maintain peace in families and among neighbours.
5. Respecting one's elders.
6. Treating all creatures with compassion.
7. Giving gifts to Brahmins and monks.
8. Show respect to other religions too.
9. Try to understand the main ideas of other religions.

Q 2. What were the means adopted by Ashoka to spread the message of 'dhamma'?

Ans:

Ashoka appointed officials (called 'dhamma mahamatta') to go from place to place and tell people about 'dhamma'. Ashoka got his messages inscribed on rocks and pillars too, in a language called as Prakrit which was comprehensible to all. Messengers were also sent to other parts of the world.

Q 3. Why do you think slaves and servants were ill-treated? Do you think the orders of the emperor would have improved their condition? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans:

1. I think that slaves and servants were ill-treated because no political authority or socio-economic organisation had favoured proper treatment for slaves and servants. They were supposed to do all manual and hard work but they were not allowed to participate in some rituals and not permitted to recite Vedas or for taking education.
2. Yes, I think the orders of the emperor would have improved condition of slaves and servants. We can give the following reasons:
 - Slaves and servants would have got proper wages and better treatment.
 - Their duty hours and working conditions would have improved.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Q 1. How are empires different from kingdoms?

Ans: An empire means a very big kingdom. It is an extensive group of states ruled by a single monarch.

- Emperors need more resources than kings
- Empires are more powerful than kingdom.
- Empires are larger than kingdom.

- Empires are to be protected by big armies.
- Empires need a larger numbers of officials who collect taxes.**

Q2. Name the two main sources of information about Mauryan empire.

Ans:

- Arthashastra by Chanakya.
- Indica by Megasthenese.

Q 3. Give one information about sources available mentioned in Arthashastra.

Ans: The Arthashastra tells that the North West of the Mauryan empire was important for blankets and South for gold and precious stones.

Solution

1. **Chandragupta Maurya** founded the Mauryan dynasty.
2. **Taxila** was the gateway to the North-West of the empire.
3. **Chanakya** was the advisor of chief minister.
4. Ashoka gave up war after winning over **Kalinga**.
5. Ashoka appointed **dhamma- mahamattas** to spread dhamma.

Prepared absolutely at home.

