STEPPING STONE SCHOOL (HIGH)

CLASS :9

Subject: HISTORY **Date:2 July,2020**

Topic:The Mauryan Empire

Time Limit:40 mins

Worksheet No. :10

" Please read the chapter from your text book and the attached notes. Then work out the exercises neatly in your notebooks henceforth Make a contents page first with columns under the heads: date, chapter number, chapter name and teacher's signature. Ensure neat and tidy work."

Use number 6 single lined notebook with 64 pages for History. The notebook should have the Stepping Stone School(High) logo on it.

The first page of the notebook should be like this:

Question 1.

With reference to the sources of information on the Mauryan Empire, explain briefly the significance of the following :

(a) Arthashastra

(b) Indika

(c) Sanchi Stupa

Answer:

(a) Arthashastra — Of all the literary sources on the history of the Mauryas, the most important source is the Arthashastra written by Kautilya, also known as Vishnugupta and Chanakya. Arthashastra contains 6000 shlokas and is divided into 15 sections and 180 subjects. It is written in Sanskrit. These subjects deal with politics, rules of diplomacy, principles of administration and other political topics. This book was discovered in 1909.

(b) Indika — Megasthenes wrote a book named Indika which contains his impressions of what he heard and saw during his stay in India. Megasthenes' original Indika has been lost, but its fragments still survive in the writings of later Greek Authors like Starbo, Arrian, Diodorous. Plutarch and Justin.

(c) Sanchi Stupa — Sanchi Stupa was built around 3rd century BC by Ashoka at Sanchi about 60 km from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. Its dimensions are 36.58 meters in diameter and 16.46 meters in height. The pillars of the railings are 2.784 meters high. During the Sunga period, the wooden railings were replaced by stone railings. There are four gateways in four directions. They have carved panels depicting events from the life of Buddha and some tales Jataka stories.

Question 2.

With reference to Mauryan Empire, answer the following questions :

(a) Give a brief account of how Chandragupta established the Mauryan empire.

(b) Give a brief account of Kalinga war and its consequences.

Answer:

(a) Chandragupta and Chanakya both together became successful to uproot Nandas from Magadha and thus took revenge for their dishonour by Nandas. Under the perfect guidance of Chanakya, Chandragupta was successful to defeat Alexander and Seleucus and conquered N.W. part of India. Apart from the vast realm along Ganga basin upto Bengal, he also spread the empire upto South.

(b) Kalinga War in 261 BC, resulted in the death of 100,000 warriors, 150,000 prisoners and many more injured. All this changed Ashoka's personal life.He stopped hunting and eating meat and abandoned luxurious life. He declared Buddhism as state religion. Prisoners of war were made cultivators who added economic prosperity to the empire, but military efficiency was decreased.

Question 3.

With reference to Mauryan administration, answer the following questions :

(a) Why is Chandragupta Maurya regarded as the chief architect of the system of administration ?

(b) Briefly describe the main features of civil and military administration under Mauryan rule.

(c) What is meant by the Pan-Indian character of Mauryan administration ?

Answer:

(a) In the time of Nandas the empire was undisciplined due to the faulty character of Nanda king. He insulted Chanakya, too. So Chanakya promised to destroy Nandas and prepared Chandragupta for a successful ruler, under his sharp guidance. Thus, Chandragupta became the basic founder of the Mauryan empire, extending to a large part of India ; with the administrative capital at Patliputra.

(b) Civil administration was divided to central and provincial governments with governors and council of ministers. Chandragupta maintained a huge army consisting of infantry, cavalry, elephants and chariots etc.

(c) The Pan-Indian character of Mauryan administration means the ruling region of Mauryan empire extended to a vast area of India from N. W. part to Bengal and upto Mysore region in South.

Question 4.

With reference to Provincial Governments under the Mauryan rule, answer the following questions :

(a) Name the different provinces and their capitals into which the Mauryan empire was divided.

(b) How was the provincial administration run ?

(c) What changes were brought about in the Mauryan administration during Ashoka's reign ?

Answer:

(a)

	Province	Capital
(*i*)	Magadha	Pataliputra
(*ii*)	Gandhara (N.W. Province)	Taxila
(*iii*)	Avanti (Eastern Province)	Ujjain
(*iv*)	Southern Province	Swarangiri
(*v*)	Kalinga	Tosali

(b) Head of the province was called 'Kumar' or ' Aryaputra', who were assisted by the Governors (Mahamatras). Besides this 'Pradeshika' (tax-collector), Rajuka (revenue officer) and Yukta (treasurer) etc. were other helpers.

(c) The Mauryan administration was highly centralised. The metropolitan state of Magadha was connected with surrounding states with active trade links and economic activities. Revenue officers had to tour the areas under their jurisdiction and enquire into the well being of the subjects. On account of some language problem, some peripheral regions were subjected to self-government.

Question 5.

With reference to the Mauryan administration write short notes on the following :

(a) District Administration

(b) Revenue system

Answer:

(a) The district or Janapadas were administered by Pradeshika, Rajuka and Yukta.

(b) The revenue shared one-sixth to one-fourth of the produce. 'Bhaga' was levied for agricultural produce and the cattle and 'Bali' was a religious tribute. Taxes collected from many shops, professionals, forests and mines, were applied for facilities of roads, irrigation hospitals and other expenses of the state.

6. Study the Ashokan Edict and answer the following Questions:

Question 6(a).

What is an edict ? Where are these edicts inscribed ?

Answer:

An edict is a decree issued by a Sovereign. The edicts of Ashoka form the most important source of Mauryan history. These edicts are inscribed on rocks and pillars throughout the country and include 14 major Rock Edicts, seven pillar edicts and a number of minor rock edicts.

Question 6(b).

What is the significance of edicts as a source of information ?

Answer:

The edicts provide a useful insight into the life and ideals of Ashoka in particular and about the history of the Mauryas in general.

Question 6(c).

Explain briefly the importance of Ashoka's edicts, giving example from one of his edicts.

Answer:

The edicts of Ashoka form the most important source of Mauryan history. They are the oldest, best preserved and precisely dated records of India. These edicts are inscribed on rocks and pillars through out the country and include 14 Major Rock Edicts, seven pillar edicts and a number of minor rock edicts. The inscription on these edicts provide a useful insight into the life and ideals of Ashoka in particular and about the history of the Mauryas in general. Rock Edict-I is one of the important edict which states, about the protection of animals.