

TEACHERS FORUM<sup>®</sup>



# QUESTION BANK

(solved)

**Class VII**

**SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**SUBJECT EXPERTS**

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# 2

# NEW KINGS & KINGDOMS

## NCERT SOLUTIONS

1. Match the following

(a) Gurjara-Pratiharas	(i) Western Deccan
(b) Rashtrakutas	(ii) Bengal
(c) Palas	(iii) Gujarat and Rajasthan
(d) Cholas	(iv) Tamil Nadu

**Ans.** (a) - (iii), (b) - (i), (c) - (ii), (d) - (iv)

2. Who were the parties involved in the “tripartite struggle”?

**Ans.** The parties involved in the tripartite struggle were Gurjar-Pratihara, Rashtrakuta and Pala dynasties.

3. What were the qualifications necessary to become a member of a committee of the sabha in the Chola Empire?

**Ans.** The members of the sabha were the prominent landlords. However there were separate committees to supervise different fields like gardens, temples etc. Names of the eligible persons to be members of the different committees were written on small tickets of palm leaf. The tickets were put into an earthen pot and a young boy was asked to take out the tickets one by one for each committee. The person selected through this process was declared to be the member of that committee.

4. What were the two major cities under the control of the Chahamanas?

**Ans.** Delhi and Ajmer.

5. How did the Rashtrakutas become powerful?

**Ans.** It was during the seventh century that the kings acknowledged the big landlords as their subordinates or samantas. The samantas were expected to bring gifts and provide military support to their kings. In due course they gained power and wealth. They declared themselves to be maha-samantas, maha- mandaleshvar (the great lord of a circle or region) and so on. Rashtrakutas were one of them who were initially the subordinates of the Chalukyas in Deccan. In the mid-eighth century, Dantidurga, a Rashtrakuta chief, performed a ritual hiranya-garbha and overthrew the Chalukya. After the ritual was over he was reborn as Kshatriya, even if he was not by birth.

6. What did the new dynasties do to gain acceptance?

**Ans.** The new dynasties gained power and wealth. Thereafter they declared themselves to be maha-samantas or mahamandaleshwara. Many of such kings adopted high sounding titles like maharaja-adhiraja or tribhuvana-chakravartin. They also deputed learned brahmanas to depict them as valiant, victorious warriors. Their activities were recorded in Prashastis. They tried to demonstrate their power and resources by

building large temples.

7. What kind of irrigation works were developed in the Tamil region?

**Ans.** During fifth or sixth century the area of Tamil Nadu was opened up for large scale cultivation. For irrigation a variety of new methods were discovered. In many areas wells were dug. Huge tanks were constructed for rainwater storage.

8. What were the activities associated with Chola temples?

**Ans.** The Chola temples were the nuclei of settlements growing around them which included centres of craft production. Temples were also endowed with land by rulers as well as by others. The produce of the land was used for the maintenance of the priests, garland makers, cooks, sweepers, musicians, dancers etc who were associated with the temples and used to work for them. Hence temples were not simply the place of worship. They were also the hub of economic, social and cultural life as well.

10. Contrast the “elections” in Uttaramerur with present day panchayat elections.

**Ans.** The system of election in Uttaramerur was quite different from that of the present day panchayat elections. In Uttaramerur election the names of the persons eligible to be members of the committees were written on small tickets of palm leaves. The tickets were put into an earthenware pot. Thereafter a young boy was asked to take out the tickets, one by one for each committee. But the present day panchayat members are elected through a general election. The names of the total members are printed with a symbol allotted to them on a paper called ballot paper. The voter put a stamp over their choice and drops it in a ballot box. Votes are counted and the winners’ name is declared by the Returning Officer. Every procedure is organized by a statutory body.

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. State True (T) or false (F).

(i) Prashastis were composed by learned Brahmanas.

(ii) Initially Cholas were subordinate to the Chalukyas of Karnataka.

(iii) Revenue was also collected from traders.

(iv) Prashastis contain details that may not be literally true.

(v) One prashasti found in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, describes the exploits of Nagabhata, a Pratihara king.

(vi) Rashtrakuta dynasty ruled the Kashmir and neighbouring areas of India.

(vii) Earlier the Chauhans were also known as Chahamanas.

**Ans.** (i) True (ii) False (iii) True (iv) True (v) True (vi) False (vii) True

2. Fill in the blanks.

(i) As samantas gained \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, they declared themselves to be \_\_\_\_\_.

(ii) The best-known Chahamanas ruler was Prithviraja III, who defeated an Afghan

ruler named \_\_\_\_\_ in 1191.

(iii) Many of these new kings adopted high-sounding titles such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

(iv) \_\_\_\_\_ were composed by learned Brahmanas.

(v) Tang dynasty remained in power between the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ century.

(vi) The evidence of the land grants were found to be recorded on \_\_\_\_\_ plate

**Ans.** (i) power and wealth / maha-samanta, mahamandaleshvara.

(ii) Sultan Muhammad Ghori

(iii) maharaja - adhiraja and tribhuvana - chakravartin.

(iv) Prashastis

(v) seventh and tenth (vi) copper

3. When was Ellora caves built?

**Ans.** Ellora caves was built during Rashtrakuta period.

4. Where was the Tang dynasty established?

**Ans.** China

5. Which river flowed in the regions of the Chola dynasty?

**Ans.** Kaveri

6. Who was the founder of Gurjara- Pratihara Harichandra dynasty?

**Ans.** Gurjara- Pratihara Harichandra

7. Name the state where Kadamba Mayurasharman ruled.

**Ans.** Karnataka

8. Where is temple of somnath situated?

**Ans.** Gujarat

9. Name the Chola ruler who developed Navy.

**Ans.** Rajendra I

10. What is vetti?

**Ans.** Vetti is a type of tax taken not in cash but in the form of forced labour.

11. Who wrote a sanskrit poem about the ruler of Kashmir?

**Ans.** Kalhana.

12. What was called sabha?

**Ans.** An assembly of prominent Brahmana landholders who looked after brahmadeya was called sabha.



13. What are prashastis?

**Ans.** Prashastis were inscriptions that were written in praise of someone or something. Usually, they were composed in praise of the rulers.

14. What kind of irrigation works were developed in the Tamil region?

**Ans.** A variety of methods were used for irrigation. In some areas wells were dug. In other places huge tanks were constructed to collect rainwater.

15. Who were known as Samantas?

**Ans.** By the seventh century there were big landlords or warrior chiefs in different regions of the subcontinent. Existing kings often acknowledged them as their subordinates or samantas.

16. Why are temples of Thanjavur and Gangaikondacholapuram famous?

**Ans.** The big temples of Thanjavur and Gangaikondacholapuram, built by Rajaraja and Rajendra, are famous for its architectural and sculptural marvels.

17. Who was Prithviraja III?

**Ans.** The best - known Chahamana ruler was Prithviraja III (1168-1192), who defeated an Afghan ruler named Sultan Muhammad Ghori in 1191, but lost to him the very next year, in 1192.

18. Who was Dantidurga?

**Ans.** Dantidurga was a Rashtrakuta chief who turned to be a kshatriya after performing a ritual known as hiranya-garbha.

19. What was called 'rent'?

**Ans.** Resources obtained from the producers were called 'rent'.

20. Who paid revenue?

**Ans.** The traders paid revenue

21. Who were the writers of Prashastis?

**Ans.** The learned brahmanas were the writers of the Prashastis.

22. Who was Kalhana?

**Ans.** Kalhana was a great Sanskrit poet from Kashmir.

23. Who wrote Kitab al-Hind?

**Ans.** A great Arab poet al-Baruni wrote Kitab al-Hind

24. Who destroyed the temple of Somnath?

**Ans.** Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni, a ruler of Afghanistan, destroyed the temple of Somnath.

25. What were called as 'ur'?

**Ans.** The settlements of peasants were called as 'ur'.

26. What were called 'nadu'?

**Ans.** The larger units of the groups of 'ur' were called 'nadu'.

27. Who was Kalhana? What was he famous for?

**Ans.** Kalhana was a great poet who composed a long Sanskrit poem containing the history of kings who ruled over Kashmir. He used a variety of sources, including inscriptions, documents, eyewitness accounts and earlier histories, to write his account. Unlike the writers of prashastis, he was often critical about rulers and their policies.

28. When they attacked one another's kingdoms, they often chose to target temples. Give reason.

**Ans.** Rulers also tried to demonstrate their power and resources by building large temples. So, when they attacked one another's kingdoms, they often chose to target temples, which were sometimes extremely rich. One of the best known of such rulers is Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni, Afghanistan. He raided the subcontinent almost every year – his targets were wealthy temples, including that of Somnath, Gujarat.

29. Write a short note on Tang dynasty.

**Ans.** In China, an empire was established under the Tang dynasty, which remained in power for about 300 years (from the seventh to the tenth centuries). Its capital, Xi'an, was one of the largest cities in the world, visited by Turks, Iranians, Indians, Japanese and Koreans. The Tang empire was administered by a bureaucracy recruited through an examination, which was open to all who wished to appear for it. This system of selecting officials remained in place, with some changes, till 1911.

30. Trace out the emergence of new dynasties.

**Ans.** (i) By the seventh century there were big landlords or warrior chiefs in different regions of the subcontinent. Existing kings often acknowledged them as their subordinates or samantas.

(ii) As samantas gained power and wealth, they declared themselves to be maha-samanta, mahamandaleshvara and so on. Sometimes they asserted their independence from their overlords.

(iii) In other cases, men from enterprising families used their military skills to carve out kingdoms.

31. How was the financial position controlled in these states?

**Ans.** These states were closely associated with peasants, traders and Brahmanas. The resources were obtained from peasants, cattle-keepers, and artisans who were the producers. They were compelled to surrender part of what they produced. The traders had to pay revenue. The functionaries for collecting revenue were generally from influential families or from the close relatives of the kings.

32. Write a note on 'Prashastis'.

**Ans.** Prashastis, often written by learned Brahmanas, were details of the functioning

of a king. They may not be literally true. They tell us how rulers wanted to depict themselves-as valiant, victorious warriors etc. Brahmanas were rewarded by grants of land which were recorded on copper plates.

33. Describe the irrigation system of Chola kingdom.

**Ans.** Irrigation system during Chola ruler was much improved. A variety of methods were applied for it. Many wells were dug; huge tanks were also constructed to collect water. The kings themselves took interest in organizing labour and resources and extensive planning.



### SELF ASSESSMENT TEST

**Choose the correct answer :**

1. What was the other name of the great lord of a 'circle' or region?  
(a) Samantas (b) Subordinates (c) Maha-mandaleshvara (d) King
2. Who were expected to bring gifts for their kings in 17th century?  
(a) Samantas (b) Overlords (c) Maha-samantas (d) Maha-mandaleshvara
3. What is Vetti?  
(a) Rent (b) Tax (c) Revenue (d) None of these
4. Prashastis tell us how rulers wanted to depict themselves as  
(a) leader (b) valiant victorious warriors (c) achiever (d) all of these
5. Brahmanas were rewarded by grants of land recorded on  
(a) copper plate (b) iron plate (c) silver plate (d) none of these

**Fill in the blanks :**

6. .... defeated Md. Ghori.
7. .... wrote Kitab al-Hind.
8. Gurjara-Pratiharas, ..... and ..... fought the Tripartite struggle.
9. Temple at Thanjavur was for goddess .....
10. Group of ur formed larger units called .....

**Answer the Following :**

11. What was known as 'brahmadeya'?
12. Define 'nagarams'.
13. Who were responsible to collect the revenue from the people?
14. Write a short note on brahmadeya.

**ANSWERS**

1. (c) Maha-mandaleshvara
2. (a) Samantas
3. (b) Tax
4. (b) valiant victorious warriors
5. (a) copper plate
6. Prithviraja III
7. al-Biruni
8. Rashtrakutas, Palas
9. Nishumbhasudini
10. nadu
11. The land gifted to Brahmanas was called as 'brahmadeya'.
12. 'Nagarams' were the associations of traders.
13. The functionaries for collecting revenue were generally recruited from influential families, and positions were often hereditary. This was true about the army as well. In many cases, close relatives of the king held these positions.
14. The term brahmadeya means land gifted to Brahmanas. Each brahmadeya was looked after by an assembly or sabha of prominent Brahmana landholders. These assemblies worked very efficiently. Their decisions were recorded in detail in inscriptions, often on the stone walls of temples

