

Very Short Answer Questions

Q.1. How did the towns rise?

Ans. There was a rise in agriculture and trade. New internal and overseas trade routes opened up. This period even led to rise of several new arts and crafts. All this resulted in the growth of towns.

Q.2. What was second urbanisation?

Ans. Large-scale agricultural production, growth of crafts and increased trade and commerce led to emergence of new towns and cities. As towns grew in number, a large number of urban centres grew. This period is, thus, called the Age of Second Urbanisation.

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. Why was there a rise in agricultural production?

Ans. The discovery of iron tools led to rapid rise in agricultural production. It even made it easier to bring more land under cultivation by clearing forests. Further, the same piece of land was used to produce more than one crop in a year. The use of iron ploughshare made it possible to dig deep in those areas where the soil was fertile.

Q.2. What do sources tell us about the existence of towns in the age of second urbanisation?

Ans. The literary sources of the period mention about many towns which existed during this period. These were Vaishali, Ujjayani, Hastinapur, Pataliputra, Mathura, Bodh Gaya, Arikamedu, Rajagriha and Kaveri Pattanam. Archaeological evidence reveals that a large number of towns existed during this period.

Q.3. What were the functions of towns? Give examples.

Ans. Each town was famous for some particular activity. Some towns were religious while others were administrative towns or capital cities. Several trading towns like Sopara, Bharuch and Tamralipti also emerged during this period. Some towns, however, were more important than others because they were famous for many activities.

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. How did crafts and craftsmen grow in the age of second urbanisation?

Ans. Arts and crafts flourished in every village. Each village had weavers, dyers, workers, blacksmiths, basket-weavers, potters, goldsmiths, carpenters, and other skilled craftsmen. As towns started developing, many craftsmen migrated to towns. Silk-weaving, dyeing, coin-minting, ivory-carving, clothmaking and bead-making were the popular occupations. Madurai and Varanasi were important centres for cloth manufacturing while Uraiyur was famous for dyeing.

Q.2. How did trade and trading communities flourish?

Ans. The rapid rise in agricultural production and crafts led to a lot of surplus production. This surplus in villages was supplied to towns. This was either used by townsmen or sent to other regions. All this led to growth of trade. Merchants and traders participated in both internal and external trade. Trade links of India existed up to the Roman Empire.

Q.3. On an outline map of India, mark 'India in ancient period.'

Ans.



Q.4. On an outline map of India mark the famous South Indian Kingdoms.



Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. How was Mathura an important urban centre?

Ans. An important town of this period was Mathura. It was a centre for a number of activities. It was the second capital of Kushanas. Being a political and administrative capital, many trade routes passed through it. It even had many temples and monasteries. It was a centre for arts and crafts. The Mathura School of Art grew here and is famous for its fine sculptures.

Q.2. How was Arikamedu an important town?

Ans. Arikamedu, near Pondicherry, was an important archaeological site excavated by British archaeologist, Sir Mortimer Wheeler. It was a coastal trading centre and a major port. It was a significant bead-making centre and had a great link with the Roman Empire. Beads, textiles, semi-precious stones and glassshell bangles were major items of export while wine and olive oil were major items of import.