

Mauryan Empire

Instructions: Each question carries one mark. Choose the most appropriate answer.

Section: Chandragupta Maurya

1. Chandragupta Maurya established the Mauryan Empire with the help of his mentor:

- a) Radhagupta
- b) Chanakya (Kautilya)
- c) Megasthenes
- d) Seleucus

2. Chandragupta Maurya defeated the last Nanda ruler:

- a) Mahapadma Nanda
- b) Dhana Nanda
- c) Kalasoka
- d) Mahanandin

3. The Greek ambassador in Chandragupta's court was:

- a) Deimachus

b) Megasthenes

- c) Dionysius
- d) Heliodorus

4. Megasthenes wrote the book:

- a) Arthashastra
- b) Indica
- c) Mudrarakshasa
- d) Rajatarangini

5. Chandragupta Maurya defeated Seleucus Nicator in:

- a) 305-303 BCE
- b) 327-325 BCE
- c) 268-265 BCE
- d) 185-183 BCE

6. The treaty between Chandragupta and Seleucus resulted in:

- a) Chandragupta paying tribute
- b) Seleucus ceding territories
- c) Exchange of prisoners only
- d) Marriage alliance

7. Chandragupta received which territories from Seleucus?

- a) Arachosia, Gedrosia, Paropamisadae
- b) Punjab and Sindh
- c) Magadha
- d) Kalinga

8. According to Jain tradition, Chandragupta Maurya:

- a) Died in battle
- b) Became a Jain ascetic
- c) Was assassinated
- d) Died of illness

9. Chandragupta spent his last days at:

- a) Patliputra
- b) Taxila
- c) Shravasti
- d) Ujjain

10. Chandragupta's successor was:

- a) Ashoka
- b) Bindusara
- c) Kunala
- d) Dasharatha

Section: Bindusara

11. Bindusara was known by the title:

- a) Devanampriya
- b) Priyadarshi
- c) Amitrochates (Amitraghata)
- d) Dharmashoka

12. The meaning of "Amitraghata" is:

- a) Friend of gods
- b) Slayer of enemies
- c) Beloved of gods
- d) Eye of Dharma

13. Which Greek ruler sent Deimachus as ambassador to Bindusara's court?

- a) Alexander
- b) Seleucus
- c) Antiochus I
- d) Ptolemy

14. Bindusara asked which foreign king to send sweet wine, dried figs and a sophist?

- a) Seleucus
- b) Antiochus I
- c) Alexander
- d) Darius

15. Bindusara suppressed revolts in:

- a) Taxila
- b) Kalinga
- c) Avanti
- d) Gandhara

16. Bindusara ruled for approximately:

- a) 10 years
- b) 20 years
- c) 25-28 years
- d) 40 years

Section: Ashoka - Early Life and Kalinga War

17. Ashoka's reign is generally considered to be:

- a) 321-297 BCE
- b) 298-273 BCE
- c) 268-232 BCE
- d) 230-200 BCE

18. Ashoka was appointed as Viceroy of which province before becoming emperor?

- a) Ujjain
- b) Taxila
- c) Tosali
- d) Suvarnagiri

19. According to some sources, Ashoka killed how many of his brothers to secure the throne?

- a) 6
- b) 99
- c) 3
- d) None

20. The Kalinga War took place in:

- a) 261 BCE
- b) 262-261 BCE
- c) 260 BCE
- d) 259 BCE

21. Kalinga was located in present-day:

- a) Bihar
- b) Odisha
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Bengal

22. The main reason for the Kalinga War was:

- a) Religious differences
- b) Personal revenge
- c) Strategic and economic
- d) Defensive war

23. The impact of Kalinga War on Ashoka was:

- a) He became more ambitious
- b) He embraced Buddhism and non-violence
- c) He expanded further
- d) He became unpopular

24. According to Ashoka's own account, how many people were affected in Kalinga War?

- a) 10,000 killed
- b) 50,000 killed
- c) 100,000 killed, 150,000 deported
- d) 200,000 killed

Section: Ashoka's Dhamma and Administration

25. Ashoka's Dhamma was:

- a) A new religion
- b) A code of moral principles
- c) Political policy
- d) Economic policy

26. The main principles of Ashoka's Dhamma included:

- a) Respect for elders, non-violence, religious tolerance
- b) Caste system, rituals
- c) Military conquest
- d) Only Buddhist principles

27. Ashoka appointed special officers to propagate Dhamma called:

- a) Rajukas
- b) Dhamma Mahamattas
- c) Yuktas
- d) Pradeshikas

28. Ashoka's inscriptions were written in:

- a) Sanskrit
- b) Prakrit
- c) Pali
- d) Tamil

29. The script used in Ashoka's inscriptions was:

- a) Devanagari
- b) Brahmi
- c) Kharosthi
- d) Tamil

30. Ashoka's inscriptions in the Northwest were in:

- a) Brahmi
- b) Kharosthi and Aramaic
- c) Greek only
- d) Sanskrit

31. The Minor Rock Edict I mentions Ashoka as:

- a) Ashoka
- b) Devanampriya Priyadarshi
- c) Dharmashoka
- d) Raja Ashoka

32. Which edict mentions Ashoka by name?

- a) Major Rock Edict I
- b) Minor Rock Edict I (Maski)
- c) Pillar Edict I
- d) Queen's Edict

33. The term "Dhamma" in Ashoka's edicts means:

- a) Only Buddhist teachings
- b) Universal moral law
- c) Political law
- d) Economic policy

34. Ashoka sent Buddhist missions to:

- a) Sri Lanka, Burma, Central Asia, Greece
- b) China only
- c) Southeast Asia only
- d) Middle East

35. Ashoka sent his son/daughter to Sri Lanka:

- a) Kunala
- b) Mahinda and Sanghamitta
- c) Tivala
- d) Jalauka

36. The Third Buddhist Council was held during Ashoka's reign at:

- a) Rajgraha
- b) Vaishali
- c) Patliputra
- d) Kashmir

37. The President of the Third Buddhist Council was:

- a) Ashoka himself
- b) Nagasena
- c) Moggaliputta Tissa
- d) Vasumitra

Section: Mauryan Administration

38. The capital of Mauryan Empire was:

- a) Taxila
- b) Ujjain
- c) Patliputra
- d) Tosali

39. The Mauryan administrative manual was:

- a) Indica
- b) **Arthashastra**
- c) Mudrarakshasa
- d) Rajatarangini

40. The author of Arthashastra was:

- a) Megasthenes
- b) **Kautilya (Chanakya)**
- c) Vishakhadatta
- d) Patanjali

41. The Mauryan Empire was divided into:

- a) 4 provinces
- b) **5 provinces**
- c) 6 provinces
- d) 8 provinces

42. Which was NOT a Mauryan province?

- a) **Kalinga (initially)**
- b) Uttarapatha
- c) Avantiratha
- d) Dakshinapatha

43. The provincial governors were called:

- a) Rajukas
- b) **Kumaras or Aryaputras**
- c) Dhamma Mahamattas
- d) Pradeshikas

44. The district officers were called:

- a) **Rajukas**
- b) Yuktas
- c) Pradeshikas
- d) Gopas

45. The spy system in Mauryan administration was called:

- a) Dhamma Mahamattas
- b) **Gudhapurushas**
- c) Rajukas
- d) Pradeshikas

46. The Mauryan official in charge of weights and measures was:

- a) Panyadhyaksha
- b) **Samsthadhyaksha**
- c) Sitadhyaksha
- d) Nagaradhyaksha

47. The Mauryan official in charge of city administration was:

- a) **Nagaraka**
- b) Rajuka
- c) Pradeshika
- d) Yukta

Section: Economy, Society and Decline

48. The main source of revenue for Mauryan state was:

- a) Trade tax
- b) **Land revenue (Bhaga)**
- c) Tribute from vassals
- d) War booty

49. The normal land tax rate was:

- a) 1/4th
- b) **1/6th**
- c) 1/8th
- d) 1/10th

50. Sita land referred to:

- a) Temple land
- b) **Crown land**
- c) Private land
- d) Forest land

51. The last Mauryan ruler was:

- a) Dasharatha
- b) Samprati
- c) **Brihadratha**
- d) Salisuka

52. The Mauryan Empire ended in:

- a) 232 BCE
- b) 185 BCE
- c) **185 BCE**
- d) 180 BCE

53. The Mauryan dynasty was overthrown by:

- a) Kharavela
- b) **Pushyamitra Shunga**
- c) Gautamiputra Satakarni
- d) Demetrius

54. The Mauryan pillar capital with four lions is found at:

- a) **Sarnath**
- b) Sanchi
- c) Allahabad
- d) Delhi

55. The Mauryan pillars were made of:

- a) Sandstone
- b) **Polished sandstone**
- c) Marble
- d) Granite

56. The emblem of the Government of India is inspired by:

- a) Sanchi Stupa
- b) **Ashoka's Lion Capital**
- c) Mauryan coin
- d) Buddhist wheel

57. The Mauryan period saw development of:

- a) **Rock-cut architecture**
- b) Temple architecture
- c) Islamic architecture
- d) Gothic architecture

58. The Mauryan Empire extended up to:

- a) **Afghanistan in northwest to Karnataka in south**
- b) Only Gangetic plains
- c) Entire subcontinent
- d) Central Asia

59. The Greek source that mentions Sandrocottus as Chandragupta Maurya is:

- a) Herodotus
- b) **Megasthenes**
- c) Ptolemy
- d) Plutarch

60. The play "Mudrarakshasa" was written by:

- a) Kautilya
- b) **Vishakhadatta**
- c) Kalidasa
- d) Banabhatta

Answer Key

1. b) Chanakya (Kautilya)
2. b) Dhana Nanda
3. b) Megasthenes
4. b) Indica
5. a) 305-303 BCE
6. b) Seleucus ceding territories
7. a) Arachosia, Gedrosia, Paropamisadai
8. b) Became a Jain ascetic
9. c) Shravabelagola
10. b) Bindusara
11. c) Amitrochates (Amitraghata)
12. b) Slayer of enemies
13. c) Antiochus I
14. b) Antiochus I
15. a) Taxila
16. c) 25-28 years
17. c) 268-232 BCE
18. a) Ujjain
19. b) 99
20. b) 262-261 BCE
21. b) Odisha
22. c) Strategic and economic
23. b) He embraced Buddhism and non-violence
24. c) 100,000 killed, 150,000 deported
25. b) A code of moral principles
26. a) Respect for elders, non-violence, religious tolerance

27. b) Dhamma Mahamattas

28. b) Prakrit

29. b) Brahmi

30. b) Kharosthi and Aramaic

31. b) Devanampriya Priyadarshi

32. b) Minor Rock Edict I (Maski)

33. b) Universal moral law

34. a) Sri Lanka, Burma, Central Asia, Greece

35. b) Mahinda and Sanghamitta

36. c) Patliputra

37. c) Moggaliputta Tissa

38. c) Patliputra

39. b) Arthashastra

40. b) Kautilya (Chanakya)

41. b) 5 provinces

42. a) Kalinga (initially)

43. b) Kumaras or Aryaputras

44. a) Rajukas

45. b) Gudhapurushas

46. b) Samsthadhyaksha

47. a) Nagaraka

48. b) Land revenue (Bhaga)

49. b) 1/6th

50. b) Crown land

51. c) Brihadratha

52. c) 185 BCE

53. b) Pushyamitra Shunga

54. a) Sarnath

55. b) Polished sandstone

56. b) Ashoka's Lion Capital

57. a) Rock-cut architecture

58. a) Afghanistan in northwest to Karnataka in south

59. b) Megasthenes

60. b) Vishakhadatta