# NCERT QUESTIONS WITH SOLUTIONS

**1.** How did the barter system take place and what commodities were used?

**Ans.** Under barter, people exchanged goods or services directly without money—e.g., a farmer might trade grain for shoes. Common items used included cattle (cows, goats), food grains (wheat, rice), cloth, salt, tobacco, seeds, and even cowrie shells in some places

**2.** What were the limitations of the barter system?

**Ans.** (i) Double coincidence of wants: Both parties needed to want what the other offered.

(ii) No common measure of value: Hard to decide fair exchange rates.

(iii) Indivisibility: Some goods (like livestock) couldn't be divided.

(iv) Portability: Bulky items were hard to carry.

(v) Durability: Perishable goods could spoil or get damaged

**3.** What were the salient features of ancient Indian coins?

**Ans.** (i) Made from precious metals such as silver, gold, copper, and alloys.

(ii) Called kārṣhāpaṇas or paṇas, they had symbols called rūpas punched on them They followed standardized weights (e.g. 32 rattis or ~3.3 g for a karshapana)

(iii) Designs typically included animals, trees, hills, deities, royal emblems; sides known as obverse and reverse

**4.** How has money as a medium of exchange transformed over time?

**Ans.** Money evolved from barter to commodity money (like cowrie shells), then to metal coins (~600 BCE), followed by paper currency (introduced in India in 1861), and finally to digital money such as debit/credit cards, net banking, and UPI from around 2016

**5.** What steps might have been taken in ancient times so Indian coins became a medium of exchange across countries?

**Ans.** (i) Minting coins from valuable metals (gold, silver) and with standard weights and purity, enabling trust abroad.

(ii) Powerful kingdoms issued widely accepted coins.

(iii) India's extensive maritime and land trade networks, including Roman trade, helped spread coin usage.

(iv) Use of recognizable symbols and punched marks, boosting acceptance in foreign markets

**6.** On Arthaśhāstra lines: Value of one pana and human values encouraged

**Ans.** (i) Value of one paṇa: An annual salary was 60 paṇas, and this amount could be substituted by a daily food provision of an āḍhaka (~3 kg of grain) for four meals. Over a year (~365 days), that totals ~1,095 kg of grain. So one paṇa equated to roughly 18 kg of grain

(ii) Fine vs annual salary: The fine for failing to help a neighbour was 100 paṇas—well above the annual income of 60 paṇas. This suggests that society placed greater social importance on compassion and mutual aid than on personal financial gain. The strict penalty reveals how much communal responsibility was valued.