

NCERT QUESTIONS WITH SOLUTIONS

1. Imagine you receive a letter from someone living in the Gupta Empire. The letter starts like this:

"Greetings from Pataliputra! Life here is vibrant and full of excitement. Just yesterday, I witnessed... " Complete the letter with a short paragraph (250-300 words) describing life in the Gupta Empire.

Ans. "...a grand procession to celebrate the harvest festival. The streets were lined with flowers, and the sounds of music filled the air. People from all walks of life, including traders, farmers, and scholars, gathered in the city center to offer prayers and celebrate. The king, Chandragupta II, himself rode in a magnificent chariot, waving to the crowds as he passed by. The wealth and prosperity of the Gupta Empire were visible everywhere, with merchants selling silk, spices, and exquisite jewelry. In the evening, scholars gathered in the royal court to discuss philosophy, science, and literature, while dancers performed traditional dances. Pataliputra, the capital, is a city of learning and culture, with renowned scholars like Aryabhata and Kalidasa contributing to the flourishing of arts and sciences. People live in harmony, and the peaceful environment supports the development of knowledge. It is truly a time of growth, prosperity, and artistic brilliance in our empire."

2. Which Gupta ruler was also known as the 'Vikramaditya'?

Ans. The Gupta ruler who was known as 'Vikramaditya' was Chandragupta II. He is remembered for his valour, his support of the arts, and for establishing a golden age in the Gupta Empire, often referred to as the "Vikramaditya era."

3. "Periods of peace support the development of various aspects of sociocultural life, literature, and the development of science and technology." Examine this statement in the light of the Gupta Empire.

Ans. The Gupta Empire (approximately 320-550 CE) was characterized by periods of political stability and peace, which greatly contributed to the flourishing of various aspects of life. During this time, the Gupta rulers, especially Chandragupta I, Samudragupta, and Chandragupta II, emphasized the promotion of knowledge, arts, and sciences.

Socio-cultural Life: The Gupta Empire saw the rise of Hindu culture, with an emphasis on religious freedom, social harmony, and the development of educational institutions. The period also witnessed the composition of great works of literature, including the famous works of Kalidasa, such as "Shakuntala," and the "Puranas," which documented the history and culture of India.

Literature: This was the golden age of Sanskrit literature. Writers like Kalidasa, Aryabhata, and Varahamihira contributed significantly to the growth of literature, poetry, and scientific texts. Aryabhata, for example, made groundbreaking contributions in mathematics and astronomy during this period.

Science and Technology: Peace and prosperity allowed scholars to engage in scientific studies. Aryabhata's work on mathematics, including the concept of zero and the approximation of pi, laid the foundation for modern mathematics. The period also saw advancements in medicine, astronomy, and metallurgy. In conclusion, the peaceful environment fostered by Gupta rulers allowed for intellectual growth, artistic achievements, and technological advancements, making the Gupta Empire one of the most culturally rich periods in Indian history.

4. Match the columns

Column I		Column II	
(A)	Kanchi-puram	(i)	Known for vibrant cave paintings that depict the Jataka tales.
(B)	Ujjayini	(ii)	Famous for rock-cut caves featuring intricate carvings of Hindu deities, especially Vishnu.
(C)	Udayagir	(iii)	Capital of the Guptas.
(D)	Ajanta	(iv)	Known as 'a city of a thousand temples.'
(E)	Pataliputra	(v)	A prominent centre of learning in ancient India.

Ans.

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5. Who were the Pallavas and where did they rule?

Ans. The Pallavas were a South Indian dynasty that ruled from the 4th to the 9th century CE. They were primarily based in the region of present-day Tamil Nadu, with their capital at Kanchipuram. The Pallavas were known for their contributions to art, architecture, and literature, and they played a significant role in the development of early Dravidian temple architecture. They were also patrons of Buddhism and Hinduism, and under their rule, Kanchipuram became an important cultural and religious center.