

NCERT QUESTIONS WITH SOLUTIONS

1. Analyse how geography (particularly mountains and coastlines) influenced Maratha military strategy and state formation.

Ans. The Marathas lived in the Western Ghats mountains and near the west coast of India. The mountains helped them build strong forts for protection and secret paths for surprise attacks. The coastline helped them create a navy to protect maritime trade. These natural features made their military strong and advance.

2. Imagine you are creating a short biography of a Maratha leader for younger students. Choose one personality (Kanhoji Angre, Bajirao I, Mahadji Shinde, Ahilyabai Holkar or Tarabai) and write 3-4 paragraphs highlighting what makes them inspirational. Include at least one challenge they overcame.

Ans. Kanhoji Angre – The Maratha Sea Lion
Kanhoji Angre was a brave Maratha navy chief who protected India's west coast in the early 18th century. He fought against the powerful British and Portuguese ships that tried to control Indian trade. Even though his navy was smaller, he used smart ideas and sea knowledge to defeat them many times.
He built strong sea forts like Vijaydurg and kept watch over the Arabian Sea. The European powers feared him because he never let them win easily. Kanhoji made sure that Indian traders could do

business without being looted by foreign powers. One big challenge he faced was fighting better-equipped European navies, but his courage and clever tactics helped him win. That's why he is still remembered as India's first great naval hero.

3. The chapter states, "The British took India from the Marathas more than from the Mughals or any other power." What do you think this means? What evidence from the chapter supports this idea?

Ans. This means that when the British wanted to rule India, the Marathas were the main power, not the Mughals. The Mughal Empire was already weak, and the Marathas controlled most parts of India like Delhi, Gujarat, and Malwa.

The Marathas fought three wars with the British, and were the last strong Indian rulers before British rule started. Hence, to take control of India, the British had to defeat the Marathas, not the Mughals. This shows how powerful the Marathas had become.

4. Compare how Shivaji and later Marathas treated religious places and people of different faiths. What evidence from the chapter shows their approach to religious diversity?

Ans. Shivaji and the later Marathas had religious tolerance and treated every other religion and beliefs with huge respect and equality. Shivaji was a devout

Hindu, but he never attacked mosques or hurt people of other faiths. When he sacked Surat, he spared religious places and even protected the house of a kind man. He also had Muslim soldiers and officers in his army. Later, under the Thanjavur Marathas, a Muslim poet named Ambar Husain was allowed to write about the Bhagavad Gita, which shows religious harmony. This proves that the Marathas believed in respecting all religions and living together peacefully.

5. The chapter describes how forts were 'the core of the state' for Marathas. Why were they so important? How did they help the Marathas survive against larger enemies?

Ans. Forts were very important for the Marathas because they gave them safety and control. The forts were built on high hills and had strong walls, which made it hard for enemies to capture them. When big armies like the Mughals attacked, the Marathas hid in forts, planned their next move, and used guerrilla warfare. From the forts, they could watch the roads, store food and weapons, and protect their people. That's why the forts were called the "core of the state" -A they helped the Marathas stay strong and fight back, even against larger and more powerful enemies.

6. You have been appointed as the chief designer for Maratha coins. Design a coin that represents Maratha achievements and values. Explain the symbols you chose.

Ans. If I design a Maratha coin, it will show the greatness and values of the Marathas. On one side, I will draw Shivaji's face with a sword and a fort behind him. This shows his bravery and how he protected the kingdom using forts. I will also add the saffron flag, which stands for Hindu culture and unity.

On the other side, I will write in Sanskrit like Shivaji's royal seal. Around the edge, I will draw small picture of a ship (for the Maratha navy), a book (for learning and justice), and hands shaking (for respect to all religions). This coin will show that the Marathas were brave, fair, wise, and respected every religion.

7. After this introduction to the Maratha period, what do you think was their most important contribution to Indian history? Write a paragraph supporting your opinion with examples from the chapter. Then share and discuss your ideas with classmates.

Ans. I think the most important contribution of the Marathas was that they protected Indian culture and freedom when foreign powers like the Mughals and British were trying to rule India. Shivaji built a strong and fair kingdom, respected all religions, and started the idea of Swarajya (self-rule). The Maratha army fought bravely, even after Shivaji's death, and stopped the Mughals from taking full control. Leaders like Tarabai and Ahilyabai Holkar also did great work in war and peace. The Marathas ruled large parts of India and kept Indian traditions alive. That's why their contribution is so important.