



D. Answer the following questions in 10 – 20 words.

Q1. How did Chandragupta I expand his territory.

Answer: Chandragupta Maurya was able to expand his empire by *conquering the small kingdoms* and through *favourable marriages*.

Q2. What is importance of the Prayaga Pillar Inscription in reconstructing the history of Samundra's times?

Answer: The inscription is a *panegyric praising Samudragupta* and lists the *political and military achievements* of his reign including his expeditions to the south.

Q3. How is history of Harsha's time reconstructed?

Answer: The early history of Harsha's reign is reconstructed from *a study by Banabhatta*, who was *his court poet* and who *wrote a book called Harshacharita*.

Q3. Name the Chinese pilgrim who gave a vivid description of Harsha's times in his accounts.

Answer: *Huien-Tsang* a Chinese traveller visited Harsha's kingdom and left detailed description of what he witnessed and observed.

D. Answer the following questions in 50 – 70 words.

Q1. Who was Pulakesin II? Whose expansion did he check in South India?

Answer: Pulakesin II is the grandson of Pulakesin I. He was the most famous of Chaulkyan king. He expanded his territory by adding entire Andhra kingdom. His reign is remembered as the greatest period in the history of Karnataka.

Pulakeshin II, the King of the Chalukya dynasty defeated Harshavardhana when he seeks to enlarge his Empire into the southern peninsula of India.

- He defeated Harshavardhana on the banks of the Narmada River in 618 AD.
- Pulakeshin entered into a treaty with Harsha, with the Narmada River designated as the border between the Chalukya Empire and that of Harshavardhana.

Q2. Which village assemblies were active during the time of the Pallavas and Chalukyas?

Answer: The villages of south India were governed by many assemblies. There were three types of assemblies in the village.

- The *ur* consisted of the *tax-paying residents* of an *ordinary village*.
- In the *sabha*, membership was *restricted to the Brahmins of the village* or was found exclusively in a village gifted to Brahmins.



- The **nagaram** was found more **commonly in trade centres** such **as cities and towns** and was an **organisation of merchants**.

Q3. How did Harshavardhana promote learning and education amongst the people?

Answer: It was during his reign that **University of Nalanda** was **made as a great centre of learning** where pupils from distant countries and places came for education and learning.

- **Harsha himself** was a **great author**. He **wrote** three plays in Sanskrit – *Ratnavali*, *Priyadarshika*, and *Nagananda*.
- He gave a **special grants** to the **Nalanda University** that had **more than ten thousands students**. The **students received free education** and liberal grants.
- He had **donated a hundred of villages** to **Nalanda University**. He took exhaustive steps for the promotion of education and learning.

Q4. Give an account of Samundragupta's campaigns in different parts of India.

Answer: The Prayaga Prashasti campaigns of Samundragupta in different parts of India.

- Samundragupta **defeated nine rulers of Aryavarta** and added their territories in Gupta Empire.
- **The twelve leaders of South India** were defeated by Samundragupta and allowed to their own territories.
- **Frontier kingdoms and tribal states, showed allegiance to the Gupta emperor:** The **frontier kingdoms** of Samatata in south-east Bengal, Kamarupa in Assam, Nepala (Nepal) and the republican states of the Malavas, Yaudheyas, Madrakas and Abhiras paid him tributes.
- The **foreign rulers of north-western India** like the later Kushanas and the Saka chief **submitted to him** and **offered their daughter in marriage**.

E. Answer the following questions in 80 – 100 words.

Q. What helped the Guptas in establishing successful empire?

Answer: **Chandragupta I** was the first important ruler of the Gupta Dynasty. Through favourable marriages and conquests, he expanded his territory.

Samudragupta succeeded his father, Chandragupta I. The rise and expansion of the Gupta Empire and the beginning of its prosperity are attributed to Samundragupta, **his military ability, his successful conquests and the intelligent policies and strategies he pursued**.

Samudragupta was a fearless fighter, a hero of hundred battles (samarashata). Some of the defeated kings would continue to enjoy full autonomy in their respective domain by paying tribute or taxes to the victorious Gupta Emperor.



- **Military Conquests:** *Having completed his first North Indian expedition, Samudragupta turned his attention to South India. There was definitely an economic motive behind his southern campaigns. At that time, South India was economically very important as its prosperous kingdoms and different trade centres continued maritime trade with Southeast Asia.*
- Later, Samudragupta turned his **attention to the kings of the forest kingdoms**. The **defeated kings** were **appointed** by the Gupta Emperor to **look after the administration** of their **respective territories**.
- He established **diplomatic relations with the foreign kings** and enjoyed considerable **control over a large number of neighbouring states** which acknowledged his authority. **Foreign kings**, such as the **Kushana** , **Shaka-Murundas, the ruler of Simhala** paid **tribute** to Samundragupta,
- The **Gupta rulers** remained the **centre figure of administration** having **council of ministers** as **advisors**.
- The Guptas has strong army. There were **several small military leaders** who **provided their troops** when **required**.
- The grant given by **Harshavardhana to Nalanda university** shows the **Guptas** were **patron of art and learning**.

(She can escape the points difficult for her to remember. I will explain answers to her in tuition)

F. Think and Answer:

Q. The Gupta age is often referred as golden age of India. Find out why?

Answer:

In Ancient India, the Gupta Dynasty ruled the mid-to-late 3rd century (approximately) to 543 AD. **It covered the entire Indian subcontinent.**

The Gupta period is known as the “Golden age” owing to its rich contribution to **literature and science**. The Sanskrit literature under the Gupta period reached extraordinary heights, and the era witnessed the greatest writers and poets of all time.

Chandragupta II promoted the **synthesis of science, art, philosophy, and religion**, in part because his court contained the Navatna, or **the Nine Jewels, a group of nine scholars who produced advancements in many academic fields.**

During this age, **peace and harmony** prevailed in that **people did not have to work to feed themselves for the earth provided food in abundance.**

The Gupta Empire’s achievements in the field of science are :-



- The scientists of the Gupta era **could detect eclipses** using their own technology and they **even knew about the presence of 7 planets of the solar system**.
- **Aryabhata** was one of the most renowned mathematicians and scientists of the era who determined that **the earth revolves around the sun along with rotating on its axis**.
- **Aryabhata** also claimed the **earth to be spherical** and he even calculated the earth's circumference.
- **Medicinal progress** such as using **particular herbs for treating wounds**.
- Mathematicians of this era **invented** the **decimal system**.

Achievements in the field of literature

The Gupta Empire's achievements in the field of literature are :-

- The **18 Puranas** were written during this era and they preserve the era's tradition, religious and philosophical principles etc.
- The Indian epics **of Ramayana and Mahabharata** were completed in the 4th Century AD.
- **Kalidasa** was a writer of this period and his works such as **Meghaduta**, Raghuvamsha and Kumarasambhava are considered as classics. **His poems and prose were among the best literary works of the time**.
- **Sushruta**, a famed Indian physician of the Gupta period, **wrote the Samhita**, a Sanskrit text on all of the major concepts of ayurvedic medicine, with innovative **chapters on surgery**.
- Other scholars of the Golden Age helped create the **first Indian numeral systems with a base of ten**.

Achievements in the field of art

- **Cave temples were mainly built in the Gupta era. Famous cave temples of Ajanta** and Bagh were made by cutting into rocks and were mainly Buddhist temples.

The Gupta Dynasty **promoted Hinduism, but supported Buddhist and Jain cultures as well**. Gupta Buddhist art influenced East and Southeast Asia as trade between regions increased.

Note: (For the answer above)

(1) Just select 5 to 8 points easy for you to remember.

(2) The comprehensive answer is to enrich the knowledge of student and gain deeper understanding of greatness of our culture