



CLASS - VII - SOCIAL SCIENCE NOTES JUNE

2. New Kings and the Kingdoms

I. TECHNICAL WORDS

1. Samantas - Regional landlords or warrior chiefs.
2. Warrior Class - People belonging to brave and experience soldier class.
3. Tribal - A Class of people following old customs and traditions.
4. Maharaja-adhiraja - A title used by the kings meaning 'the great king' or overload of kings.
5. Devadana - Land gifted to other religious communities in the south.
6. Brahmadeva - Land gifted to Brahmins in the south.
7. Sultan - An Arabic term meaning ruler.

II. VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q. 1. What do you understand by Samantas?

Ans. Samantas were big landlords or warrior chiefs in the Indian Medieval Period. They were of different regions of the subcontinent. They were selected or called so due to their military skills and knowledge of warfare.

Q. 2. Who were the parties involved in the 'tripartite struggle for Kanauj'?

Ans. Gurjara-Pratihara, Pala and Rashtrakuta dynasties were the three parties involved in 'tripartite struggle' for Kanauj.

Q. 3. Mention the two major cities under the control of the Chauhans?

Ans. Delhi and Ajmer were the two major cities under the control of the Chauhans.

Q. 4. What were the qualifications necessary to become a member of a committee of the sabha in the Chola empire?

Ans. To become a member of the Sabha in the Chola empire one must be eligible to look after irrigation works or gardens or temples etc. of his village or area. Then by picking up the palm leaves on which names of persons were written the task was assigned to them. The member must be a Brahmin.

III. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q. 1. Write a short note on Bhoja-I.

Ans. Bhoja-I: He was famous ruler of Pratihara Dynasty. He ruled from 836 to 885 AD. His empire stretched from Kashmir to Narmada and from Gujarat to Bengal. He made Kanauj his capital after capturing it. He was devotee of Vishnu and adopted the title of Adivaraha. He was succeeded by his son Mahendrapala-I.

Q. 2. Discuss about the Pala dynasty.

Ans. Pala dynasty was founded by Gopala an elected king by nobels. Their capital was Patliputra. They ruled over Bihar, Bengal, parts of Orissa and Assam with many ups and downs for over 4 centuries. .They were great patrons of learning and founded Buddhist monastery at Vikramshila for higher learning.

Q. 3. Why is Mahmud of Ghazni called 'idol - breaker'?

Ans. Mahmud of Ghazni mainly attacked the temples in Northern India to take away gold and jewellery kept there. He destroyed images to obtain religious merit so he is called as 'Idol breaker'.

Q. 4. Why is the defeat of Prithviraja Chauhan in the second Battle of Tarain considered to be a turning point in Indian history?

Ans. Defeat of Prithviraj Chauhan was considered to be the turning point in Indian history as his defeat resulted in the foundation of the Muslim Rule in India.

Rajput kingdom became weak and could not stand before the Turkish Invaders who ruled India after this and thereby resulted in establishment of the Muslim Rule.

Q. 5. What were the activities associated with Chola temples?

Ans. The temple were cultural centres and the centres of craft production. They were given devadana or land grants by the members of the royal family. The settlements around the temples also consisted of garland makers, cooks, sweepers, musicians, dancers etc. The South Indian temples were not only places of worship but also served as cultural centres and as hub of economic and social activities.

IV. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q. 1. How did new kingdoms emerge in the beginning of the early medieval Period?

Ans. After the death of Harsha in AD 647 his empire brokeup into a number of small kingdoms . In the period between AD750 to 1000 the three dynasties came into prominence in the North and the Deccan Parts of India.

By the 7th century big land lords or warrior chiefs gained great importance in the kingdoms. The kings acknowledged them as their samantas or subordinates. They used to collect taxes and had control of their regions. They gained power and wealth and declared themselves as Mahasamantas ,Maha-mandaleshvaras and sometimes as independent ruler. They also used military skills to establish kingdom so new kingdoms emerged in the beginning of the early medieval period.

Q. 2. What did the new dynasties do to gain acceptance?

Ans. The new dynasties to gain acceptance did the following things:

- There was Tripartite struggle among the rulers of Pratiharas, Pala and Rashtrakuta to

take the control of Kanauj which was then a symbol of sovereignty. They felt whosoever control and capture Kanauj could have effective control of the Ganga valley. But they became weak and new dynasties came into existence.

- They built many famous forts and temples to show their art skills They rewarded Brahmins by grants of lands. They could collect the taxes from the lands given to them.
- Revenue and trade systems were improved.
- Religions and learning were improved by providing more facilities in this regard like the Vikramshila university and Kailash temple at Ellora.
- Prashastis were written in praise of kings.

Q. 3. How did the Rashtrakutas become powerful?

Ans. The Deccan part of India was ruled by Rashtrakutas in AD 753-973.

They were at first subordinate to Chalukyas of Karnataka in 753.

Dantidurga the chief of Rashtrakuta declared independence from Chalukya. They performed ritual Hiranya Garbha i.e., golden womb with help of Brahmins to become kshatriya king.

Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna-I built Kailash temple at Ellora which is magnificent piece of art. They also, patronised religions like Jainism, Buddhism and Islam. Sanskrit Prakrit and Kannada languages were also given importance. This way they became more powerful.

Q. 4. Discuss the irrigation works that were developed in the Tamil region?

Ans. Various methods were used to irrigate the fields, like canals and tanks. Many agricultural reforms were done to make the irrigation good for agricultural prosperity of the areas by the Chola Dynasty.

They were as follows:

- The river Kaveri was branched off into several small channels and renewed the soils of flood plains year after year.
- With rice many other crops were cultivated.
- Canals and tanks were constructed for irrigating the lands.
- Various methods were used to irrigate, like canals in Delta region, wells in some areas and tanks in others.
- Irrigation planning, organizing labour and resources, maintenance of work and decision on sharing water were carried.
- Officers or associations were appointed to look into the matter.
- The trading association had closer ties with China and other South-east Asian countries.

V. PICTURE STUDY

The picture depicts the famous Chauhan ruler in the court of Muhammad Ghori.



(i) **Identify this Hindu ruler.**

Prithviraj Chauhan.

(ii) **Mention the circumstances and the reasons that led to his defeat by Muhammad Ghori.**

He was captured being deceived and later killed by Muhammad Ghori

(iii) **Write a short description about this famous ruler.**

Prithviraj Chauhan was a great warrior and the ruler of Rajput Dynasty. He became king at the age of 14 years. He won many battles and conquered many small states of Rajasthan. He won first battle of Tarain against Muhammad Ghori but lost to him in the second battle in 1192 and was killed by him. His achievements were described by his court poet chander bardai in his famous book 'Prithviraj Raso'.

(iv) **Name another Turkish invader from Afghanistan who attacked the Somnath temple in Gujarat.**

Mahmud of Ghazni.

1. On Equality

I. TECHNICAL WORDS

1. Creed - A system of religious belief.
2. Constitution - A document that lays down the basic rules and regulations for the people and government of India.
3. Crime - An action that is punishable by law.
4. Dignity - Worthy of honor and respect.
5. Discrimination - Unjust treatment.

II. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. **State two ways in which Article 15 of our Constitution addresses inequality among citizens.**

Ans : Article 15 states that: (i) The state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them. (ii) No citizen shall on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to access to shops, public restaurants, hotels, use of wells, bathing ghats, or any public place.

2. In what ways does the government ensure equality as guaranteed by the constitution?

Ans : The government tries to implement equality in two ways: (i) Through laws that help the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other disadvantaged communities. (ii) Through various social and economic programmes or schemes the Mid-day Meal Scheme, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, etc.

3. The government initiatives to reduce the inequality in our daily life work very slowly. Give reasons why?

Ans : The government initiatives to reduce the inequality in our daily lives work very slowly due to the following reasons: (i) The attitude of the people to think all as equal, changes very slowly. (ii) Even though persons are aware of the law, but they continue to treat people unequally on the basis of their caste, religion, economic status, gender etc.

4. Why do you think that inequality is a world phenomenon? Explain.

Ans : Inequality is a world phenomenon because in many countries of the world, the issue of equality is an important issue of concern. For example, in USA, African, Americans were treated extremely unequally. Later, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination here on the basis of race, religion or national origin. In fact, no country in the world can be described as completely free from this bane.

III. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by the term “all persons are equal before the law”? Why do you think it is important in a democracy?

Ans : All persons are equal before the law’ means they will be protected equally by the laws of the land. The state or country shall not discriminate between people on the basis of place of birth, religion, sex, caste, creed, race or wealth. Equality is important in democracy because it is the foundation of democracy. It also involves some kind of equitable distribution of income and absence of privileges and social discrimination.

2. What are the provisions mentioned in our Constitution with regard to equality among citizens?

Ans : These provisions are:

(i) Every person is equal before the law. This means that every person, from the president of the country to domestic worker has to obey the same laws.

(ii) No person can be discriminated against on the basis of their religion, race, caste, place or birth or whether they are male or female.

(iii) Every person can use all public places including playgrounds, hotels, shops, markets, wells, roads and bathing ghats. Untouchability has been abolished. It is considered as a crime.

3. “In daily life, we still find many examples of inequality”. Explain

Ans : In our daily life, we still find many examples of equality. There are a significant number of people living below poverty line in India whose daily living and working conditions are far from equal. The caste system as a predominant social evil is used to discriminate against large number of people. The lower caste people are seen as unworthy and called untouchables or Dalits (scheduled caste). Dalits were excluded by

the other caste people. They should not even use public facilities. We see they were not allowed to enter the homes of upper class (caste) even temples. Even today, especially in the case of matrimony, the issue of caste continues to be in the minds of highly educated people.

4. List the advantages of Mid-day Meal Scheme.

Ans : The advantages of Mid-day Meal Scheme are:

- (i) More poor children have begun enrolling and regularly attending school.
- (ii) Earlier the children went home for lunch, generally, did not return to school. Now, their attendance has improved.
- (iii) Earlier mothers were interrupted in their work to feed their children at home during the day. This is not so, now.
- (iv) This programme has helped reduce caste prejudices because all students eat together. Also, Dalit women have been employed to cook the mid-day-meal.

IV. PICTURE STUDY

Look at the picture and answer the questions that follow:



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1. Which government scheme is being portrayed in the picture?

Ans. The Mid-day Meal Scheme.

2. What directions did the Supreme Court give in 2001 related to this scheme?

Ans. The Supreme Court in 2001 asked all the state governments to implement this scheme in their schools within six months.

3. What is the purpose of the scheme?

Ans. The purpose of this scheme was to provide nutritious mid-day meals to school-going children and encourage them to attend school more regularly.

4. List two advantages of this scheme.

Ans. Two advantages of this scheme are: More poor children have enrolled and are regularly attending school. Earlier the children would go home for lunch and not return back to school, but now, their attendance has improved.