

Chapter 1- What, Where, How and When?

VII LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION: (Detail)

1. What are the different ways to find out about the past? Describe briefly.

Ans: The different ways to find out about the past are following :

(i) Manuscripts: These were handwritten matter. They were usually written on palm leaf or the bark of the birch tree. These books dealt with all kinds of subject such as religious beliefs and practices, the lives of king , medicines and science. These manuscripts all so included epics, poems, plays.

(ii) Inscriptions: Inscriptions are writing on relatively hard surfaces such as stone or metal. Some inscriptions kept records of victories in battle

(iii) Archaeological excavations are evidences: Archaeologists explore and dig earth to find tools, weapons, pots, pans, ornaments and coins. These things provide us valuable information about the past.

Chapter 2 On The Trail of the Earliest People

VII LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION: (Detail)

What were the various reasons for hunter-gatherers to move from place to place? Mention in detail

Answer: Hunter-gatherers kept on moving from one place to another for the following reasons:

(i) Staying at one place for a long time would have ended up the availability of plant and animal resources.

(ii) Animals move from place to place—either in search of smaller prey,

or, in the case of deer and wild cattle, in search of grass and leaves. That is why, those who hunted them had to follow their movements.

(iii) Plants and trees bear fruit in different seasons. Hence, people may have moved from season to season in the hope of getting different kinds of fruits, (iv) Plants, animals and people need water for their survival. While many rivers and lakes are perennial others are seasonal. People living on their banks would have had to go in search of water during the dry seasons, ie. winter and summer.

(v) People may have travelled to meet their kith and kin.

Chapter 3 From Gathering to Growing Food

VII Answer in Paragraph:

Describe tools used by farmers and herders.

Answer: Stone tools have been found from many sites. They are often different from the Palaeolithic tools and are called 'Neolithic'. There were tools that were polished so as to give a fine cutting edge, and mortars and pestles were used for grinding grain and other plant produce. However, Palaeolithic tools were still used for some purposes. Some tools were also made of bone.

4 In the Earliest Cities

VII LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION: (Detail)

1. Describe the people of Harappan cities.

Answer: There were three basic occupations of people living in Harappan cities.

(i) They planned the construction of special buildings in the city. They probably sent people to distant lands to get raw material. They kept the most valuable objects for themselves.

(ii) Scribes were people who knew how to write. They prepared the seals.

(iii) Crafts-persons. People who made all kinds of things were called Crafts- persons.

Besides these three categories, there were the farmers and herders who lived outside the city and provided food to the people.

Chapter 5 What Books and Burials Tell Us

VII Answer in paragraph:

Write a short note on megaliths.

Ans: Megaliths are stone boulders used to mark burial sites. They were prevalent around 3000 years ago in the Deccan, South India, in the northeast and in Kashmir. Some megaliths are seen on surface and some are underground. Sometimes a circle of stone boulders or a single large stone is found standing on the ground, to indicate the position of burials.

Chapter 6 Kingdoms, Kings and an Early Republic

VII LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION: (Detail)

1. What was an important features of capital cities of 'mahajanapadas'? Why were they fortified? How were they fortified? [V. Imp.]

Ans: Capital cities of 'mahajanapadas' were mostly fortified by building huge walls of wood, brick or stone around them. There were various reasons for building forts. They were probably built because people were afraid of attacks from other kings and needed protection. Some rulers probably built forts to make their cities impressive and to show how rich and powerful they were. Moreover, by making forts, controlling the fortified area became easier for the kings.

Buildings forts required a great-deal of planning. Hundreds of thousands of brick or stone had to be prepared. Enormous amount of labour and resources were required.

GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER 1 THE EARTH IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM

VII LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION:

1. Write short notes on the following:

(a) The sun (b) The moon (c) Galaxy

Answer:

(a) The sun is considered the "head" of the solar system. It is a star, although it is smaller and less bright than most other stars. It is a huge celestial body made up of extremely hot gases. It provides heat and light for the whole of the solar system. Life on earth depends on many factors, and sunlight is one of them. The sun is about 150 million kilometres away from earth.

(b) The moon is the only natural satellite of our planet earth. Its diameter is just about a quarter of the earth's diameter. It is comparatively closer (3,84,400 kilometres away) to earth than all other celestial bodies. It does not support life. It revolves around the earth and rotates about its own axis in about the same time, due to which only one side of the moon is visible to us.

(c) Galaxy is a term that refers to billions of stars, clouds of dust and gases, and other celestial bodies considered as a single unit. The only bigger unit is the universe, galaxies make up the universe. The galaxy we live in is called the Milky Way.

CHAPTER 2 GLOBE LATITUDES AND LONGITUDES

VII ANSWER IN PARAGRAPH:

1. Why do we have the concept of time zone?

Answer: The sun does not shine with the same intensity over all parts of the world at a particular time. If it is overhead at one place (midday), then it does not shine at all (midnight) at the place directly opposite to that place on the earth. So if we have the same time, then 12 noon will mean midday at one place, and midnight at another. To avoid such an awkward system, we have the system of time zones, so that everywhere a particular time means the same stage of the day.

CHAPTER 3 MOTIONS OF THE EARTH

VII LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION: (Detail)

1. Explain the following:

(a) Summer solstice (b) Winter solstice

Answer: (a) Summer solstice. The Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the sun on 21st June. As the rays of the sun fall directly on the Tropic of Cancer, these areas receive more heat. Since a large area of the Northern Hemisphere is getting light from the sun, it is summer in the regions north of the equator. The longest day and the shortest night at these places occur on 21st June. These conditions are reversed in the Southern Hemisphere at this time. It is winter season there having longer nights and shorter days. This position of the earth is known as the summer solstice.

(b) Winter solstice. On 22nd December, the Tropic of Capricorn receives direct rays of the sun as the South Pole tilts towards it. As the sun's rays fall vertically at the Tropic of Capricorn, a larger portion of the Southern Hemisphere gets light. Hence, the Southern Hemisphere enjoys summer having longer days and shorter nights. This position of the earth is called the winter solstice.

CHAPTER 4 MAPS

VII LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION: (Detail)

1. Define and discuss 'distance' as a component of a map.

Answer: Maps are drawings. They reduce the whole world or a part of it to fit on a sheet of paper. In other words we can say that maps are drawn to reduced scales. But it needs great care while doing this reduction work in order to keep the distance between the real places. It can only be possible when a small distance on paper represents a large distance on the ground. For this purpose a scale is used. Scale is the ratio between the actual distance on the ground and the distance shown on the map. We can understand this with the help of an example. Suppose, the distance between your coaching centre and your school is 8 km. If you show this 8 km distance by 2 cm on a map. It means, 1 cm on the map will show 4 km on the ground.

Thus, the scale of your drawing will be 1 cm = 4 km

Scale is very important in any map. If scale is known, calculation of distance between any two places on a map will be easy.

A small scale is used to show large areas on a paper like continents or countries. For example, 10 cm on the map shows 1000 km of the ground.

A large scale is used to show a small area like a village or town on paper. For example, 10 cm on the map shows 1000 metres only on the ground.

CIVICS

CHAPTER 1 UNDERSTANDING DIVERSITY

VII LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION: (Detail)

1. List three ways in which the different geographical location of Kerala and Ladakh

would influence the following:

- The food people eat
- The clothes they wear
- The work they do.

Ans:

- The food people eat. Ladakh is a desert in the mountains in the eastern part of the Jammu & Kashmir. Very little agriculture is possible here. It is therefore people here keep sheep, goats, cows and dogs for their living. They eat meat and milk products like cheese and butter. Kerala is a coastal region. The fertile land and climate are suited to growing rice and a majority of people here eat rice, fish and vegetables.

- The clothes they wear. Ladakhi people wear woollen clothes including Pashmina shawls because it is very cold there. The people of Kerala wear cotton clothes.
- The work they do. The people of Ladakh rear sheep for its wool. The main occupations of the people of Kerala are fishing and farming. People grow rice in huge quantity. They also grow a number of spices like pepper, cloves and cardamoms.

CHAPTER 2 DIVERSITY AND DISCRIMINATION

VII LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION: (Detail)

1. Differentiate between inequality and discrimination.

Ans: Inequality and discrimination are the two different concepts. But they are related closely to each other. Inequality may be the difference between caste, creed, culture, language, region, economic status, educational background, etc. Everyone differs from the other in society.

Discrimination takes place when one acts against an individual or a community on the basis of difference. A whim or a prejudice works behind it. If one tries to exploit the other' individual who is down in status in any way it is called discrimination.

CHAPTER 3 WHAT IS GOVERNMENT?

VII LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION: (Detail)

1. What does the government do for the welfare of its citizens?

Ans: The government does a variety of works for the welfare of its citizens:

- It makes decisions and gets things done.
- It builds roads and schools.

- It takes decisions about how to reduce the price of essential goods when they get too expensive or ways to increase the supply of electricity.
- It supervises postal and railway services.
- At the time of natural calamities, it organises aid and assistance for the affected people.
- It makes laws for the safety of its citizens. For example, there is a law that says that all persons driving a two-wheeler must wear helmet.

CHAPTER 4 KEY ELEMENTS OF A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

VII ANSWER IN PARAGRAPH:

1. One of the ways of participating is to take interest in the working of the government and to criticise it when required. Explain with an example.

Ans. It is one of the important ways of participation. We can prove it through an example. In August 2005, when a particular government increased the money people had to pay for electricity, people expressed their disapproval very sharply. They took rallies and also organised a signature campaign. The government tried to explain and defend its decision but finally listened to the people's opinion and withdrew the increase. The government had to change its decision because it is responsible to the people.