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CLASS XII · HISTORY (027) · THEMES IN INDIAN HISTORY PART I · CBSE BOARD EXAMINATION 2027

HISTORY · THEME 2 **MODEL ANSWERS**

Kings, Farmers and Towns

Board-Style Answer Booklet · Answers as CBSE expects them

CBSE marking-scheme pattern | Word count on every answer | 101 model answers | Most-probable 2027 answers marked

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HOW TO USE IT

1. Write your own answer first, in the practice notebook.
2. Then open this booklet. Tick each numbered point you also wrote.
3. Give yourself 1 mark per matching point – that is how the examiner marks.
4. Copy any point you missed into My Mistakes (last page of the Chapter Booklet).
5. Rewrite the answer after 3 days, from memory.

USE WITH Chapter Booklet, History Theme 2

M

READ THIS FIRST · BASED ON THE CBSE SAMPLE PAPER AND MARKING SCHEME 2026–27

How CBSE Marks History

Every answer in this booklet follows the official marking-scheme pattern: numbered value points, keyword first, inside the word limit. Under each answer you will see its word count and how the marks are split.

The History paper in 2027 (as in Sample Paper 2026–27)

Paper 027 · 80 marks · 34 questions · 3 hours

Item	Type	Marks	Words	What earns the marks
Q1–Q21	MCQs: statements, matching, picture-based, chronology, assertion–reason	1 each	–	Letter + answer
Q22–Q27	Short answer; some with (A) **or** (B)	3 each	60–80	3 points × 1 mark
Q28–Q30	Long answer, (A) **or** (B)	8 each	300–350	8 points × 1, or 4 + 4
Q31–Q33	Source-based: three sub-questions each	4 each	–	1 + 1 + 2, from the source + chapter facts
Q34	Map: mark 3 places (Harappan, Buddhist, Vijayanagara, Mughal…) + identify 2 places of 1857 or the national movement	5	–	Right place + name written

Theme 2 comes in every paper: 1–2 MCQs and usually one bigger question – a **3-mark** answer on the Mauryan sources (2024, 2025), a **4-mark source** (2026, SQP 2024–25) or an **8-mark** choice (SQP 2025–26 and 2026–27). Our 8-mark answers give the eight value points in about 150–230 words; the Model Answer Booklet then gives a full 300–350 word answer that shows how to expand them in the exam.

How the marking scheme gives marks

SEVEN RULES

- **Marks come from value points.** Each correct, relevant point earns 1 mark: one value point per mark – 3 marks = 3 points, 8 marks = 8 points (or 4 + 4 when the question has two parts). The scheme accepts "any other relevant point", so a correct NCERT point that is not in our answer also scores.
- **Points are numbered and backed by evidence.** The examiner wants a fact in each point: a site, a find, a writer, a date, a place or an example. Our long answers add one opening and one closing line so the answer reads well; the marks come from the numbered points.
- **Keyword first.** Start each point with the key word and underline it – the examiner scans for it. Then give one fact: a name, a date, a number or an example.
- **MCQs:** write the letter and the answer text. Combination questions are answered like "(b) Only a, b and d".
- **Case / source-based:** (i) and (ii) need one clear line each; the 2-mark part needs two separate points. Use the passage's own clues, then add chapter facts.
- **Internal choice:** write "(A)" or "(B)" in the margin and attempt only one. Map questions: attach the map to the answer book.
- **Do not repeat** one idea in two points – it earns one mark only.

Answer frames – copy this shape

3-mark answer — 60–80 words

1. Keyword: point + site / find / date.
2. Keyword: point + example.
3. Keyword: point + result.

One or two sentences per point.

8-mark answer — 300–350 words

→ Opening line that answers the question in short.

1–8 Eight numbered points, keyword first, each with evidence: a site, a find, a writer or a date.

→ Closing line: "Thus / Hence …".

If the question has two parts, answer under two sub-headings.

Source-based 1 + 1 + 2 · Q31–Q33

(i) One line, from the source.
(ii) One line: source clue + chapter fact.
(iii) Two separate points, one line each.

Never copy the whole passage.

Short of time? Learn these ten first

Most probable for 2027

C1	Enumerate the features of Mauryan administration.	[8]	C2	Explain how Asokan inscriptions help us understand the …	[3]
C3	"The history of the Mauryan empire has been reconstructed …	[3]	C5	Explain how modern historians account for the rise of …	[8]
C7	How do coins help numismatists reconstruct the commercial …	[8]	C11	"Land grants give us an insight into the relationship …	[8]
D1	Source: A King Speaks to His People	[4]	D2	Source: A Queen Gives Away a Village	[4]

Link words that make an answer flow

as a result · this led to · because · therefore · in turn · this made it possible to · on the other hand · however

A

ANSWERS · PART A

Textbook Check – Answers

Model answers to every Textbook Check question. Underlined words are the keywords the examiner looks for.

Inscriptions and the earliest states

A1. What are inscriptions? How did James Prinsep's work change the study of early Indian history? [3]

1. **Inscriptions:** writings engraved on stone, metal or pottery that record the deeds or ideas of those who had them made.
2. **Prinsep:** a mint officer of the East India Company who deciphered Brahmi and Kharosthi by 1838.
3. **New direction:** Asoka was identified as Piyadassi and Devanampiya; historians could now build a political history of dynasties.

54 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A2. Why is the 6th century BCE regarded as a major turning point in early Indian history? [3]

1. **States:** the first states – the sixteen mahajanapadas – and later empires and kingdoms emerged.
2. **Economy:** cities grew, iron came into wider use for tools and weapons, and the first coins appeared.
3. **Ideas:** new systems of thought, including Buddhism and Jainism, developed.

40 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

A3. Describe three features of the mahajanapadas. [3]

1. **Rulers:** most were ruled by kings; some, the ganas or sanghas like the Vajji, were oligarchies ruled by a group of rajas.
2. **Fortified capitals:** each had a capital, often fortified, with an army and officials.
3. **Taxes and norms:** the Dharmasutras told rulers, ideally Kshatriyas, to collect taxes and tribute from cultivators, traders and artisans.

54 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A4. Explain the reasons for the growth of Magadha as the most powerful mahajanapada between the 6th and 4th centuries BCE. [8]

Magadha, in present-day Bihar, rose above the other mahajanapadas for both natural and human reasons.

1. **Fertile land:** agriculture was especially productive, giving the rulers a steady surplus and revenue.
2. **Iron mines:** iron ore in present-day Jharkhand was within reach, providing tools for farming and weapons for the army.
3. **Elephants:** elephants, an important part of the army, were found in the forests of the region.
4. **Rivers:** the Ganga and its tributaries gave cheap and convenient transport and communication.
5. **Ambitious kings:** Buddhist and Jaina writers credit the policies of Bimbisara, Ajatasattu and Mahapadma Nanda.
6. **Able ministers:** ministers helped these kings carry out their plans.
7. **Safe first capital:** Rajagaha (Rajgir) was a fortified settlement protected by hills.
8. **Better second capital:** in the 4th century BCE the capital moved to Pataliputra, which commanded routes along the Ganga.

Thus geography and leadership together made Magadha the base of the first empire.

Full answer – as you would write it in the exam (313 words)

Between the sixth and the fourth centuries BCE, Magadha, in present-day Bihar, became the most powerful of the sixteen mahajanapadas. Historians explain its rise through a combination of natural advantages and human effort.

The first advantage was fertile land. Magadha lay in the middle Ganga plain, where agriculture was especially productive. Good harvests gave the rulers a steady surplus that could be collected as revenue to pay for armies and officials.

The second was iron. Iron mines in present-day Jharkhand lay within reach of Magadha. Iron was used to make tools that helped farmers clear and cultivate land, and to make weapons for the army.

Third, elephants, which were an important part of armies in this period, were found in the forests of the region. They gave Magadha a military edge over its rivals.

Fourth, the Ganga and its tributaries provided a cheap and convenient means of communication. Goods, troops and messages could move easily along the rivers, which helped both trade and warfare.

Early Buddhist and Jaina writers offer a different explanation. They give the credit to the policies of individual rulers. Bimbisara, Ajatasattu and Mahapadma Nanda are described as ruthlessly ambitious kings who expanded Magadha by war and alliances. These writers also mention able ministers who helped the kings carry out their plans.

The choice of capitals also mattered. For many years Rajagaha, the Prakrit name for present-day Rajgir, was the capital. It was a fortified settlement located among hills, which made it easy to defend. In the fourth century BCE the capital was shifted to Pataliputra, present-day Patna. Pataliputra commanded communication routes along the Ganga, so it was well suited for controlling trade and moving armies over a larger area.

Thus Magadha's fertile land, iron, elephants and rivers, combined with ambitious kings, able ministers and well-chosen capitals, made it the strongest mahajanapada and the base of the later Mauryan empire.

146 words · limit 350 | Full answer: 313 words · board asks 300–350 | Marking: 8 points × 1 = 8
Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | MUST DO

The Mauryan empire

A5. Which sources do historians use to reconstruct the history of the Mauryas? [3]

1. **Material and texts:** archaeological finds, especially sculpture; the account of Megasthenes, a Greek envoy, and the Arthashastra, partly by Kautilya.
2. **Later literature:** Buddhist, Jaina and Puranic texts and later Sanskrit literary works.
3. **Inscriptions:** Asoka's own inscriptions on rocks and pillars, often thought the most valuable because they give the king's own words.

52 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A6. Describe the administration of the Mauryan empire. [8]

The Mauryas ruled a huge empire from Afghanistan to Odisha through a network of centres and officials.

1. **Five centres:** the capital Pataliputra and the provincial centres Taxila, Ujjayini, Tosali and Suvarnagiri.
2. **Location:** Taxila and Ujjayini lay on long-distance trade routes; Suvarnagiri was important for Karnataka's gold mines.
3. **Uneven control:** control was strongest around the capital and provincial centres; a diverse empire could not be ruled uniformly.
4. **Communication:** land and river routes linked the centres and carried officials, armies and goods.
5. **Army:** Megasthenes describes a committee with six subcommittees: navy, transport and provisions, foot-soldiers, horses, chariots and elephants.
6. **Supplies:** the transport subcommittee arranged bullock carts, food for soldiers, fodder for animals, and servants and artisans.
7. **Dhamma:** Asoka tried to unite the empire through dhamma – respect for elders, generosity, kindness to slaves and tolerance of other faiths.
8. **Dhamma mahamattas:** special officers spread the message of dhamma among the people.

Thus the Mauryan state combined military power with a moral message.

Full answer – as you would write it in the exam (336 words)

The Mauryan empire, founded by Chandragupta Maurya in about 321 BCE, was the first large empire of the subcontinent. It stretched from the north-west to Odisha and south to Karnataka, and its administration had several important features.

The empire had five major political centres. Pataliputra was the capital, and Taxila, Ujjayini, Tosali and Suvarnagiri were provincial centres; all are mentioned in Asokan inscriptions. These centres were carefully chosen. Taxila and Ujjayini lay on important long-distance trade routes, while Suvarnagiri, meaning the golden mountain, was important for tapping the gold mines of Karnataka.

Control was not uniform. It was strongest in areas around the capital and the provincial centres. The empire was very diverse, with hilly regions of Afghanistan and coastal areas of Odisha, so it is unlikely that one system of administration was imposed everywhere. Communication along both land and river routes was vital for the existence of the empire, since officials, armies and goods had to move constantly.

The army was well organised. Megasthenes, the Greek ambassador at the court of Chandragupta, mentions a committee with six subcommittees for military affairs. One looked after the navy, the second managed transport and provisions, the third was responsible for foot-soldiers, the fourth for horses, the fifth for chariots and the sixth for elephants. The second subcommittee arranged bullock carts to carry equipment, food for soldiers and fodder for animals, and recruited servants and artisans to look after the soldiers.

Asoka added a moral dimension to administration. He tried to hold his empire together by propagating dhamma, a set of ethical principles. These included respect towards elders, generosity towards brahmanas and those who renounced worldly life, kind treatment of slaves and servants, and respect for religions other than one's own. Special officers known as dhamma mahamattas were appointed to spread the message of dhamma, and inscriptions carried the king's words to his officials and subjects.

Thus Mauryan administration combined a network of strategic centres, a strong army and Asoka's moral appeal to govern a vast and varied empire.

158 words · limit 350 | Full answer: 336 words · board asks 300–350 | Marking: 8 points × 1 = 8
Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | MUST DO

A7. What were the main principles of Asoka's dhamma? How did he spread it? [3]

1. **Respect and generosity:** respect for elders; generosity towards brahmanas and those who renounced worldly life.
2. **Kindness and tolerance:** kind treatment of slaves and servants; respect for religions other than one's own.
3. **Spreading it:** inscribed messages on rocks and pillars and appointed dhamma mahamattas.

43 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A8. "The Mauryan empire was important, but its importance should not be exaggerated." Explain. [3]

1. **Seen as a landmark:** 19th-century historians and nationalist leaders found it inspiring; the lion capital is India's national emblem.
2. **Short life:** it lasted only about 150 years.
3. **Limited reach:** it did not cover the whole subcontinent, and even within it control was uneven.

43 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

New kings and the changing countryside

A9. How did chiefs in early Tamilakam differ from kings? Give three points. [3]

1. **Position:** a chief's position may not be hereditary; he depends on the support of his kinfolk.
2. **Duties:** he performs special rituals, leads in war and arbitrates disputes.
3. **Resources:** he receives gifts, not regular taxes, and shares them with his followers.

40 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

A10. How did rulers like the Kushanas and Guptas try to claim a high status? [3]

1. **Divine kingship:** Kushana rulers took the title devaputra (son of god); colossal statues stood in a shrine at Mat near Mathura.
2. **Prashastis:** Gupta kings had court poets compose praise-poems, like Harishena's Prayaga prashasti for Samudragupta.
3. **Coins:** they issued gold coins bearing their names and images.

45 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

A11. Describe the strategies adopted to increase agricultural production from c. 600 BCE. [3]

1. **Plough:** plough agriculture spread in the fertile Ganga and Kaveri valleys; iron ploughshares raised output.
2. **Transplantation:** paddy seedlings were transplanted in areas of heavy rain, giving much higher yields.
3. **Irrigation:** wells, tanks and some canals were built by communities and individuals.

41 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A12. How did the new agricultural technology lead to differences in rural society? [3]

1. **Unequal gains:** not everyone benefited; Buddhist texts mention landless labourers, small peasants and large landholders.
2. **Gahapati:** the head of a household controlled land, animals, women, slaves and workers.
3. **Tamil terms:** vellalar (large landowners), uzhavar (ploughmen) and adimai (slaves) show the same divisions.

42 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

A13. What were land grants? Why do historians think they were made? [8]

Land grants are an important source for rural society in the Gupta period.

1. **Records:** from the early centuries CE, grants of land were recorded on stone and mostly on copper plates.
2. **Receivers:** they were usually given to religious institutions or to brahmanas.
3. **Agrahara:** land given to a brahmana was usually free of revenue, and he could collect dues from local people.
4. **Prabhavati Gupta:** this Vakataka queen, daughter of Chandragupta II, granted land in a village – unusual, since women rarely controlled land.
5. **Village life:** her grant lists the dues and services villagers had to give the new owner.
6. **View 1 – expansion:** grants helped extend agriculture to new, uncultivated lands.
7. **View 2 – weak kings:** kings whose power was weakening tried to win allies by granting land.
8. **View 3 – image:** kings wished to appear generous and powerful, even when they were losing control.

Thus land grants created new rural elites, though they say little about mobile groups.

Full answer – as you would write it in the exam (336 words)

From the early centuries of the Common Era, kings began to make grants of land, and these grants are an important source for understanding rural society, especially in the Gupta period.

Land grants were recorded in inscriptions. A few were on stone, but most were engraved on copper plates, which were probably given as a record to those who received the land. The grants were usually made to religious institutions or to brahmanas. Most inscriptions were in Sanskrit, but from about the seventh century parts of them were in local languages such as Tamil and Telugu.

Land granted to a brahmana was called an agrahara. Such land was usually exempt from revenue and other dues to the king, and the brahmana was given the right to collect these dues from the local people.

A well-known example is the grant made by Prabhavati Gupta, the daughter of Chandragupta II, who was married into the Vakataka family. Her grant of land is unusual, because women were not normally expected to have independent access to resources such as land. The inscription also lists the produce and services that villagers were expected to give to the new owner, giving us a rare glimpse of rural life.

Historians have offered different explanations for why grants were made. Some suggest that land grants were part of a strategy adopted by ruling lineages to extend agriculture to new areas, since grantees would bring uncultivated land under the plough. Others argue that land grants were a sign of weakening political power: as kings lost control over local chiefs and samantas, they tried to win allies by making grants of land. A further view is that kings wished to project themselves as supermen, generous and powerful, even when they were losing control.

The grants also had limits as sources. They tell us little about pastoralists, fishing folk, hunter-gatherers and shifting cultivators.

Thus land grants created new rural elites, extended cultivation and reflected changing royal power, and they help historians understand the countryside of early India.

154 words · limit 350 | Full answer: 336 words · board asks 300–350 | Marking: 8 points × 1 = 8 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | MUST DO

Towns, trade and coins

A14. Describe the features of the new cities that grew from the 6th century BCE. [3]

1. **On routes:** most were capitals on routes: Pataliputra on a river route, Ujjayini on land routes, Puhar on the coast.
2. **Rich finds:** NBPW pottery and objects of gold, silver, copper, ivory, glass and shell.
3. **Mixed people:** votive inscriptions name weavers, goldsmiths, scribes, merchants and kings; guilds organised crafts.

48 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

A15. What were guilds or shrenis? What were their functions? [3]

1. **Meaning:** organisations of craft producers and merchants in the growing towns of early India.
2. **Production:** they procured raw materials for their members and regulated the quality and quantity of production.
3. **Marketing:** they marketed the finished goods; craftspersons used iron tools to meet the demand of urban elites.

47 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

A16. Trace the development of coinage in the subcontinent from c. 600 BCE to 600 CE. [8]

Coins made exchange easier and tell us about rulers and trade.

1. **Punch-marked coins:** the earliest coins, of silver and copper, from about the 6th century BCE.
2. **Many issuers:** their symbols may be royal, but merchants, bankers and townspeople may also have issued them.
3. **Indo-Greeks:** the first coins with the names and images of rulers, from about the 2nd century BCE.
4. **Kushana gold:** the first gold coins, c. 1st century CE, equal in weight to Roman and Parthian coins.
5. **Roman coins:** hoards of Roman coins in south India show trade with the Roman Empire.
6. **Tribal republics:** the Yaudheyas of Punjab and Haryana issued thousands of copper coins, showing interest in trade.
7. **Gupta gold:** the Guptas issued spectacular gold coins, remarkable for their purity.
8. **Decline:** after the 6th century CE gold coins became rare – linked to a crisis after Rome's decline, or to new trade networks.

Thus coins help historians trace both political power and commercial networks.

Full answer – as you would write it in the exam (342 words)

Coins were one of the major developments in exchange in early India. They made trade easier and, for historians, they are a valuable source on rulers, economies and contacts.

The earliest coins were punch-marked coins, made of silver and copper, from about the sixth century BCE. They have been found in excavations at many sites across the subcontinent. Numismatists have identified the symbols on some of them with those of royal dynasties, including the Mauryas, which suggests that kings issued them. It is also likely that merchants, bankers and townspeople issued some of these coins.

The first coins to bear the names and images of rulers were issued by the Indo-Greeks, who established control over the north-western part of the subcontinent around the second century BCE.

The first gold coins were issued around the first century CE by the Kushanas. They were virtually identical in weight with contemporary Roman and Parthian coins, and they have been found at several sites in north India and Central Asia. Their wide use indicates the enormous value of transactions taking place.

Hoards of Roman coins found at archaeological sites in south India show that networks of trade were not confined within political boundaries. South India was not part of the Roman Empire, but its spices, pepper and textiles were exported there.

Coins were also issued by tribal republics. The Yaudheyas of Punjab and Haryana, around the first century CE, issued thousands of copper coins, which shows their interest and participation in economic exchange.

Some of the most spectacular gold coins were issued by the Gupta rulers. The earliest issues were remarkable for their purity. They facilitated long-distance transactions and also brought additional prestige to kings.

From the sixth century CE onwards, finds of gold coins become rare. Some historians link this to an economic crisis after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire; others suggest that new towns and trade networks emerged and coins remained in use.

Thus the history of coinage traces the growth of trade, the reach of rulers and links with distant lands.

155 words · limit 350 | Full answer: 342 words · board asks 300–350 | Marking: 8 points × 1 = 8 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | MUST DO

A17. Explain three limitations of inscriptional evidence. [3]

1. **Technical:** letters may be faint, damaged or missing, so readings are uncertain; some words' meanings are unclear.
2. **Coverage:** not all inscriptions have been deciphered, published or translated; many are lost.
3. **Viewpoint:** they record the views of those who commissioned them, not daily life or ordinary people.

46 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | MUST DO

B

ANSWER KEY · PART B

Objective – Answer Key

All 26 MCQ and assertion–reason answers, each with a one-line reason so you learn the fact, not only the letter.

Write the option letter **and** the answer, as the marking scheme does – e.g. "(b) ..." followed by the answer text.

Q	Answer	Why (one line)
B1	**(c) 1838**	1838; Asiatic Society 1784, Cunningham 1877, Epigraphia Indica 1888.
B2	**(d) pleasant to behold**	Devanampiya = beloved of the gods; devaputra = son of god (Kushanas).
B3	**(a) I, II and III**	Magadha, not Panchala, was the most powerful.
B4	**(a) a-iii, b-iv, c-i, d-ii**	Magadha–Bihar; Avanti–Malwa (Ujjain); Gandhara–Taxila area; Koshala–Awadh.
B5	**(d) Roman gold coins**	Roman trade came centuries later.
B6	**(c) commanded routes along the Ganga**	Rajagaha was the hill fort; Pataliputra stood on the river route.
B7	**(a) a-iv, b-iii, c-ii, d-i**	Navy, transport, foot-soldiers, horses, chariots, elephants.
B8	**(a) the gold mines of Karnataka**	Suvarnagiri = 'golden mountain'.
B9	**(d) conquest of neighbouring kingdoms**	After Kalinga, Asoka turned away from conquest.
B10	**(b) a-iv, b-iii, c-i, d-ii**	Board 2026 asked a similar match.
B11	**(c) Kushanas**	Possibly inspired by Chinese 'sons of heaven'.
B12	**(a) samantas**	Powerful samantas could even become kings.
B13	**(d) ploughmen**	Vellalar – landowners; adimai – slaves; masattuvan – merchants.
B14	**(c) a Vakataka queen, daughter of Chandragupta II**	She granted land – unusual for a woman.
B15	**(b) agrahara**	Brahmanas could also collect dues from local people.
B16	**(d) Kushanas**	c. 1st century CE; Indo-Greeks gave the first coins with rulers' names and images.
B17	**(b) Yaudheya**	Yaudheyas of Punjab and Haryana.
B18	**(b) III, II, I, IV**	327–325 BCE → c. 272 BCE → c. 320 CE → 606 CE.
B19	**(c) Rudradaman**	He claims he used his own resources, without forced labour.
B20	**(b) punch-marked coin**	Earliest coins, from about the 6th century BCE.
B21	**(b) it was read with the help of Indo-Greek coins bearing Greek and Kharosthi**	Greek legends were compared with Kharosthi ones.
B22	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	R gives two of the reasons.
B23	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	R explains their importance.
B24	**(c) A is true, but R is false.**	A is true; R is false – guilds also built temples and made gifts.
B25	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	They may exaggerate the king's achievements.
B26	**(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**	R explains why they could circulate widely.

C

ANSWERS · PART C

Board Pattern – Answers

Model answers in the marking-scheme pattern. Orange tags show where a similar question came in a board or sample paper.

The Mauryan empire – sources and administration

★★★ 5 of 6 papers · 1, 3 and 8 marks

C1. Enumerate the features of Mauryan administration. **[8]**

The Mauryan empire was the first large empire of the subcontinent, ruled through a network of centres.

1. **Capital and provinces:** Pataliputra was the capital; Taxila, Ujjayini, Tosali and Suvarnagiri were provincial centres named in Asokan inscriptions.
2. **Strategic centres:** Taxila and Ujjayini commanded trade routes; Suvarnagiri controlled Karnataka's gold mines.
3. **Uneven control:** control was tightest near the capital and provincial centres; distant hill and forest areas were loosely held.
4. **Routes:** land and river routes were vital for moving officials, armies and goods.
5. **Army committee:** Megasthenes describes a committee with six subcommittees – navy, transport and provisions, foot-soldiers, horses, chariots, elephants.
6. **Supplies:** bullock carts carried equipment; food, fodder, servants and artisans were arranged for the army.
7. **Dhamma:** Asoka used dhamma – respect, generosity, kindness and tolerance – to hold a diverse empire together.
8. **Officials:** dhamma mahamattas spread dhamma; inscriptions carried the king's orders to officials and subjects.

Thus the Mauryas combined a strong army and officials with Asoka's moral appeal.

Full answer – as you would write it in the exam (333 words)

The Mauryan empire was the first large empire in the subcontinent. Historians reconstruct its administration from Asokan inscriptions, the account of Megasthenes and the Arthashastra.

Its first feature was a network of political centres. Pataliputra was the capital, and Taxila, Ujjayini, Tosali and Suvarnagiri were provincial centres, all mentioned in Asokan inscriptions. These centres were located with care. Taxila and Ujjayini commanded important long-distance trade routes, while Suvarnagiri was important for tapping the gold mines of Karnataka.

Second, control was uneven. It was strongest in areas around the capital and the provincial centres. Given the diversity of the empire, from the hills of Afghanistan to the coast of Odisha, a uniform system of administration was unlikely. Distant hill and forest regions were only loosely held.

Third, communication was vital. Both land and river routes were developed and used to move officials, armies and goods across the empire, and the movement of people along them was essential for its survival.

Fourth, the army was carefully organised. Megasthenes describes a committee with six subcommittees for military activity: one for the navy, one for transport and provisions, one for foot-soldiers, one for horses, one for chariots and one for elephants. The subcommittee for transport arranged bullock carts to carry equipment, procured food for soldiers and fodder for animals, and recruited servants and artisans to look after the soldiers.

Fifth, Asoka gave the administration a moral purpose. He tried to hold the empire together by propagating dhamma, whose principles included respect for elders, generosity towards brahmanas and renouncers, kind treatment of slaves and servants, and respect for other religions. He appointed special officers, the dhamma mahamattas, to spread the message, and his inscriptions carried his instructions to officials and subjects.

Finally, historians in the twentieth century came to regard the Mauryan empire as a major landmark, though they note that it lasted only about 150 years.

Thus Mauryan administration combined strategic centres, good communication, an organised army and Asoka's dhamma to govern a vast and varied empire.

155 words · limit 350 | Full answer: 333 words · board asks 300–350 | Marking: 8 points × 1 = 8
Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | SQP 2025–26 Q28(A) | MUST DO

C2. Explain how Asokan inscriptions help us understand the administration of the Mauryan empire. [3]

1. **Provinces:** they name the five centres – Pataliputra, Taxila, Ujjayini, Tosali and Suvarnagiri – showing how the empire was divided.
2. **Officials:** they mention officials such as the dhamma mahamattas and the king's orders to them.
3. **Policy:** they record dhamma and the Kalinga war, showing the king's aims and his wish to reach subjects directly.

52 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | Board 2025 61/1/1 Q22(a) | MUST DO

C3. "The history of the Mauryan empire has been reconstructed from a variety of sources." Explain any three. [3]

1. **Accounts and treatises:** Megasthenes' Indica (in fragments) and Kautilya's Arthashastra describe the court, army and administration.
2. **Inscriptions:** Asoka's rock and pillar inscriptions give his own words on dhamma and his officials.
3. **Other sources:** Buddhist, Jaina and Puranic texts, sculpture, and finds such as punch-marked coins.

45 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | Board 2024 61/1/1 Q23; Board 2025 61/1/1 Q22(b) | MUST DO

C4. "Asoka is regarded as an inspiring figure in Indian history." Give three reasons. [3]

1. **Direct message:** he was the first ruler to inscribe his messages to subjects and officials on rocks and pillars.
2. **Dhamma:** he taught respect, generosity, kindness to servants and tolerance of all faiths.
3. **Change after Kalinga:** his remorse after the Kalinga war and turn to dhamma inspired nationalist leaders; his lion capital is our national emblem.

55 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

Mahajanapadas and Magadha

★★☆ 2 of 6 papers · 1 and 8 marks · map

C5. Explain how modern historians account for the rise of Magadhan power. [8]

Modern historians look at Magadha's resources and geography, not only at its kings.

1. **Productive land:** the fertile alluvial Ganga plain gave a large agricultural surplus and steady revenue for the state.
2. **Iron:** iron mines in present-day Jharkhand supplied tools and weapons.
3. **Elephants:** forests of the region supplied elephants, a key part of the army.
4. **Communication:** the Ganga and its tributaries gave cheap and convenient transport.
5. **Contrast with texts:** early Buddhist and Jaina writers instead credit the policies of individual, ruthlessly ambitious kings – Bimbisara, Ajatasattu and Mahapadma Nanda.
6. **Ministers:** they also credit able ministers who helped these kings carry out their policies.
7. **Rajagaha:** the first capital was a fortified hill settlement, easy to defend.
8. **Pataliputra:** the later capital controlled the Ganga routes, helping trade and the movement of armies.

Thus natural resources and strong rulers together made Magadha the first great power.

Full answer – as you would write it in the exam (314 words)

Magadha, in present-day Bihar, became the most powerful mahajanapada between the sixth and the fourth centuries BCE. Modern historians explain this rise mainly through its resources and geography, while early texts emphasise the role of individual rulers.

According to modern historians, the first reason was productive agriculture. Magadha lay in the fertile alluvial plain of the Ganga, so farming yielded a large surplus. This surplus could be taxed, giving the state a steady flow of revenue to maintain armies and officials.

The second reason was iron. Iron mines in present-day Jharkhand were accessible and provided resources for tools and weapons. Iron tools helped extend cultivation, while iron weapons strengthened the army.

Third, elephants, an important component of armies, were found in forests in the region. They gave Magadha a military advantage over neighbouring states.

Fourth, the Ganga and its tributaries provided a cheap and convenient means of communication. Rivers made it easier to move goods, troops and messages over long distances.

Early Buddhist and Jaina writers who wrote about Magadha offered a different explanation. They attributed its power to the policies of individuals: ruthlessly ambitious kings such as Bimbisara, Ajatasattu and Mahapadma Nanda, and their ministers, who helped implement their policies. Historians accept that able rulers mattered, but they see them working within the advantages provided by geography.

The location of the capitals also helped. Initially Rajagaha, the Prakrit name for present-day Rajgir, was the capital. Located amid hills, it was a fortified settlement that was difficult for enemies to attack. Later, in the fourth century BCE, the capital was shifted to Pataliputra, present-day Patna. Pataliputra commanded routes of communication along the Ganga, which helped the state control trade and move armies quickly.

Thus modern historians explain the rise of Magadha through its fertile land, iron, elephants and rivers, while recognising that ambitious kings, able ministers and well-chosen capitals turned these advantages into power.

141 words · limit 350 | Full answer: 314 words · board asks 300–350 | Marking: 8 points × 1 = 8 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | SQP 2025–26 Q28(B) | MUST DO

C6. Distinguish between monarchies and ganas or sanghas among the mahajanapadas. **[3]**

1. **Monarchy:** most mahajanapadas were ruled by a king, ideally a Kshatriya, who collected taxes and tribute.
2. **Gana or sangha:** an oligarchy where power was shared by a group of men called rajas, as in the Vajji sangha.
3. **Resources:** in sanghas the rajas probably controlled land collectively; Mahavira and the Buddha came from such ganas.

54 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

Coins, trade and towns

★★☆ 2 of 6 papers · 1, 4 and 8 marks

C7. How do coins help numismatists reconstruct the commercial networks of early India? **[8]**

Numismatics, the study of coins, is a key source for the economy of early India.

1. **Punch-marked coins:** silver and copper coins from the 6th century BCE, found at many sites, show the spread of exchange.
2. **Many issuers:** some may have been issued by merchants, bankers and townspeople – evidence of urban trade.
3. **Indo-Greek coins:** names and images of rulers help date trade and link it to political control in the north-west.
4. **Kushana gold:** equal in weight to Roman and Parthian coins, found across north India and Central Asia – evidence of long-distance trade.
5. **Roman hoards:** Roman coins in south India show sea trade in pepper, spices and textiles with the Roman Empire.
6. **Yaudheya coins:** thousands of copper coins of this tribal republic show its interest in trade.
7. **Gupta gold:** pure gold coins were used for high-value and long-distance transactions.
8. **Fewer coins after 600 CE:** historians link the decline of gold coins to changes in trade after the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

Thus coins trace the routes, partners and scale of early Indian trade.

Full answer – as you would write it in the exam (338 words)

Numismatics is the study of coins, including the visual elements such as scripts and images, metallurgical analysis and the contexts in which they have been found. Coins are one of the most important sources for reconstructing the commercial networks of early India.

The earliest punch-marked coins, made of silver and copper from about the sixth century BCE, have been found at many sites across the subcontinent. Their wide distribution shows that exchange using money had spread over large areas. The symbols on some suggest royal issue, but it is likely that merchants, bankers and townspeople issued others, which points to active urban trade.

Indo-Greek coins of around the second century BCE were the first to carry the names and images of rulers. They help numismatists date trade and link it to political control in the north-west.

Kushana gold coins of around the first century CE were virtually identical in weight with contemporary Roman and Parthian coins. Their discovery at several sites in north India and Central Asia shows the large value of transactions and the existence of long-distance trade routes linking the subcontinent with Central Asia and beyond.

Hoards of Roman coins found in south India are evidence of sea trade with the Roman Empire. South India exported pepper, spices, precious stones and textiles, and Roman coins came in return, showing that trade networks were not confined within political boundaries.

Coins of tribal republics add to the picture. The Yaudheyas of Punjab and Haryana issued thousands of copper coins, which shows their interest and participation in economic exchange.

The Gupta rulers issued some of the most spectacular gold coins, remarkable for their purity. These facilitated long-distance transactions and also brought prestige to the kings.

Finally, the relative scarcity of gold coins after the sixth century CE suggests changes in trade. Some historians link it to a crisis after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire; others think new networks emerged.

Thus coins help numismatists identify trading partners, routes, the scale of transactions and changes in commerce over time.

173 words · limit 350 | Full answer: 338 words · board asks 300–350 | Marking: 8 points × 1 = 8 | Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | SQP 2026–27 Q28(B) | MUST DO

C8. **Describe the trade networks of the subcontinent between c. 600 BCE and 600 CE.** **[3]**

1. **Routes:** land and river routes crossed the subcontinent to Central Asia; sea routes reached East Africa, West Asia, Southeast Asia and China.
2. **Traders:** peddlers, caravan merchants with bullock carts and seafarers; rich merchants were called setthi, satthavaha or masattuvan.
3. **Goods:** salt, grain, cloth, metals, timber and medicinal plants; pepper, spices and textiles went to the Roman Empire.

57 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

C9. Why were the rivers and the Malabar ports important for early trade? Why did bead-making grow at places like Kodumanal? [3]

1. **Rivers:** rivers carried goods from the interior down to the coast cheaply.
2. **Malabar ports:** ships, as the Periplus describes, loaded pepper there for the Roman world, which paid well.
3. **Kodumanal:** it lay near sources of beryl and quartz and on routes to the ports, so its beads could be traded widely.

51 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | Board 2026 61/2/3 Q32 (source)

C10. Describe the role of guilds (shrenis) in early towns, with the example of the silk weavers of Mandasor. [3]

1. **Functions:** guilds procured raw materials, regulated production and marketed goods.
2. **Mandasor:** a guild of silk weavers moved from Lata (Gujarat) to Dashapura (Mandasor).
3. **Wealth:** it used its wealth to build a temple of the sun god – guilds were rich and respected.

41 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | SQP 2026–27 Q4 (A–R)

Inscriptions, prashastis and land grants

★★☆ 2 + 2 of 6 papers · 1, 4 and 8 marks

C11. "Land grants give us an insight into the relationship between cultivators and the state." Explain. [8]

Land grants show how rights over land and its produce were shared between the king, the grantee and the peasants.

1. **What they were:** grants of land, mostly on copper plates, given to religious institutions or brahmanas from the early centuries CE.
2. **Agrahara:** brahmanas received land free of revenue and the right to collect dues from local people.
3. **Transfer of rights:** the king's right to produce and dues passed to the new owner; villagers were told to obey him.
4. **Prabhavati Gupta:** her grant lists the produce and services villagers had to provide – the burden on cultivators.
5. **New rural elites:** grantees became powerful local landholders, standing between peasants and the state.
6. **Expansion view:** some historians say grants extended agriculture into new lands.
7. **Weak state view:** others say kings granted land because their power was weakening and they needed allies.
8. **Who is missing:** grants say little about pastoralists, hunters, fishing folk and shifting cultivators.

Thus land grants reveal a changing countryside with new elites and heavy dues on cultivators.

Full answer – as you would write it in the exam (348 words)

Land grants were recorded in inscriptions, mostly on copper plates, from the early centuries of the Common Era. They were usually made to religious institutions or to brahmanas, and they throw valuable light on the relationship between cultivators and the state.

When a king granted land, he transferred his own rights over that land to the receiver. Land given to a brahmana, called an agrahara, was usually exempt from revenue and other dues to the king. The brahmana was given the right to collect these dues from the local people instead. The villagers were told to obey the new owner and to deliver to him the produce and services they had earlier owed to the state.

The grant made by Prabhavati Gupta, the daughter of Chandragupta II and a Vakataka queen, illustrates this clearly. It orders the villagers to obey the brahmana and to give him all their customary dues. It also lists the duties from which the village was now freed, such as supplying grass, animal hides and charcoal to touring royal officers. This shows how many demands were normally made on cultivators.

Land grants also created new rural elites. Grantees became powerful landholders who stood between peasants and the state and controlled local resources. Over time, this changed the structure of rural society.

Historians explain these grants in different ways, and each explanation says something about state and peasant. Some argue that grants were a strategy to extend agriculture to new areas, bringing forests and wasteland under cultivation and new cultivators under control. Others argue that grants reflect weakening royal power: kings who were losing control over their samantas tried to win allies by granting land. Some suggest kings wanted to appear generous and powerful even when they were losing ground.

Land grants also have limits. They tell us little about pastoralists, fishing folk, hunter-gatherers, craftspersons and shifting cultivators, who were often outside the agrarian system.

Thus land grants show how the state shared its rights over land with new elites, how dues were extracted from cultivators, and how the countryside was changing in early India.

166 words · limit 350 | Full answer: 348 words · board asks 300–350 | Marking: 8 points × 1 = 8
Opening + closing line: 1 line each, no extra mark | SQP 2026–27 Q28(A) | MUST DO

C12. How do historians date inscriptions, and what do the languages of inscriptions tell us? [3]

1. **Dates:** some carry dates; others are dated by palaeography – the style of the letters.
2. **Societies:** they record kings, officials, gifts and occupations, showing how societies worked.
3. **Languages:** Prakrit in Asokan inscriptions, later Sanskrit in prashastis and Tamil in the south show the languages of rulers and people in each region.

50 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | SQP 2024–25 Q31 (source)

C13. Why do historians use prashastis like the Prayaga prashasti with care? [3]

1. **Written to praise:** court poets like Harishena composed them to glorify their patrons, such as Samudragupta.
2. **Exaggeration:** claims of conquests, generosity and virtue may be overstated, and defeats are left out.
3. **Checked with other sources:** historians compare them with coins, other inscriptions and texts before accepting them.

47 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3

C14. Explain the role of the Sudarshana lake as evidence of state concern for irrigation. [3]

1. **Mauryan origin:** an artificial reservoir near Girnar in Gujarat, built under the Mauryas.
2. **Rudradaman:** the Shaka ruler repaired its broken embankment in the 2nd century CE, claiming he used his own funds without forced labour.
3. **Continuity:** it was repaired again under the Guptas – rulers saw irrigation as their duty.

49 words · limit 80 | Marking: 3 points × 1 = 3 | SQP 2024–25 Q6 (MCQ)

D

ANSWERS · PART D

Source-Based – Answers

One line each for the 1-mark parts; separate points for the 2-mark parts. The whole answer stays within the word limit.

D1. Source-Based · A King Speaks to His People (printed in the booklet) [4]

(i) Who is the 'beloved of the gods' in this source? [1]

Asoka, the Mauryan emperor (Devanampiya).

(ii) What are the special officers appointed by the king called? [1]

Dhamma mahamattas.

(iii) Explain two ways in which this message could help the king rule a large and diverse empire. [2]

(i) Respect for all sects reduced conflict among people of different faiths and regions.

(ii) Rules of good conduct and officers who spread them gave the empire a common moral code and linked subjects directly to the king.

45 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 2 = 4 | CBSE lists an Asokan inscription as an excerpt for this theme

D2. Source-Based · A Queen Gives Away a Village (printed in the booklet) [4]

(i) Name the queen who could have made such a grant. [1]

Prabhavati Gupta, the Vakataka queen and daughter of Chandragupta II.

(ii) What does the source tell us about the duties villagers once owed to the state? [1]

They had to feed and supply touring officials and allow the state to dig for salt and minerals.

(iii) Explain two ways in which such grants changed rural society. [2]

(i) Grantees became a new rural elite with rights over produce and dues.

(ii) Villagers now paid and obeyed the grantee, while the king gave up revenue – perhaps to win allies or spread farming.

62 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 2 = 4 | SQP 2026–27 Q28(A) asked about land grants

D3. Source-Based · When the King Was Unjust (printed in the booklet) [4]

(i) From which collection of stories does this kind of tale come? [1]

The Jatakas (the Gandatindu Jataka); the Panchatantra has similar stories.

(ii) What were the people's main complaints? [1]

Heavy taxes, seizure of goods by officers, and unpunished robbers.

(iii) What does the story tell us about the relationship between kings and subjects? Give two points. [2]

(i) Kings and their officers demanded more from people, causing tension and hardship.

(ii) Subjects resisted by leaving their villages – flight to the forest was a form of protest.

49 words in all · limit 100 | Marking: 1 + 1 + 2 = 4

E

ANSWERS · PART E

Map Work – Key

Where each map item lies, so you can check your own outline map.

Map answers are marked only if the place is shown at the right spot **and** its name is written. Use the school's printed outline map. This key tells you where each item lies.

Item	Where it is – check your map against this
Gandhara	north-west, around Peshawar and Rawalpindi in present-day Pakistan.
Kuru	around present-day Delhi, Meerut and north Haryana, between the Yamuna and the upper Ganga.
Panchala	western Uttar Pradesh (Rohilkhand), east of Kuru, across the Ganga.
Koshala	eastern Uttar Pradesh (Awadh), north of the Ganga; capital Shravasti.
Vajji	north Bihar, north of the Ganga.
Magadha	south Bihar, south of the Ganga, around Patna and Gaya.
Avanti	western Madhya Pradesh (Malwa).
Rajgir	Bihar (Nalanda district), south-east of Patna, among hills.
Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh, on the Shipra river, north-west of Indore.
Taxila	Pakistan, north-west of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.
Varanasi	eastern Uttar Pradesh, on the Ganga.
Topra	north Haryana (Yamunanagar district).
Meerut	western Uttar Pradesh, north-east of Delhi.
Kaushambi	Uttar Pradesh, on the Yamuna, west of Prayagraj.
Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh (Raisen district), north-east of Bhopal.
Mathura	western Uttar Pradesh, on the Yamuna, south of Delhi.
Kanauj	Uttar Pradesh, on the Ganga, north-west of Kanpur.
Puhar	Tamil Nadu coast, at the mouth of the Kaveri.
Bharukachchha	Gujarat (Bharuch), at the mouth of the Narmada.

2

ANSWERS · PART 2 KEY WORDS & LINKS

Link Drills – Answers

Watch how each answer joins cause to result with a link word. Copy this habit into every History answer.

Drill 1 · Explain how X led to Y

link words in bold

L1. Explain how **Prinsep's decipherment** led to a **new direction** in early Indian history. [2]

> Prinsep read Brahmi and Kharosthi in 1838. **As a result**, Asoka was identified and inscriptions could be read, **so** historians could list dynasties and later study economy and society.

30 words · limit 40

L2. Explain how **iron and elephants** led to the **rise of Magadha**. [2]

> Iron gave tools and weapons and elephants strengthened the army. **Therefore** Magadha could farm more and fight better than its rivals.

21 words · limit 40

L3. Explain how a **diverse empire** led Asoka to spread **dhamma**. [2]

> The empire held many peoples, regions and faiths. **This led** Asoka to preach respect and tolerance through dhamma and dhamma mahamattas.

21 words · limit 40

L4. Explain how the **iron ploughshare** led to **differences in rural society**. [2]

> The iron ploughshare raised output, but only some could afford land and oxen. **As a result**, landholders grew rich while labourers stayed landless.

24 words · limit 40

L5. Explain how **land grants** led to **new rural elites**. [2]

> Grants gave brahmanas land and the right to collect dues. **Therefore** grantees became powerful local landholders over the villagers.

19 words · limit 40

L6. Explain how **long-distance trade** led to the issue of **gold coins**. [2]

> Trade with Rome and Central Asia needed coins of high value. **This led to** Kushana gold coins of the same weight as Roman ones.

24 words · limit 40

L7. Explain how **weakening royal power** may have led to **more land grants**. [2]

> When kings lost control, they needed loyal allies. **Because of this** they may have granted land to win support.

19 words · limit 40

L8. Explain how the **point of view of patrons** leads to **limitations of inscriptions**. [2]

> Inscriptions were written for kings and rich patrons. **Therefore** they show only their view and leave out daily life and ordinary people.

22 words · limit 40

Drill 2 · Three words in one answer

the three words underlined

L9. Write a 60-word answer using: **Pataliputra · Taxila · Suvarnagiri**. [3]

> Pataliputra was the Mauryan capital. Taxila, on a long-distance trade route in the north-west, and Suvarnagiri, near the gold mines of Karnataka, were provincial centres named in Asokan inscriptions.

31 words · limit 60

L10. Write a 60-word answer using: **Kushanas · devaputra · gold coins**. [3]

> The Kushanas ruled from Central Asia to north-west India. They took the title devaputra, son of god, and issued the first gold coins, equal in weight to Roman coins.

31 words · limit 60

L11. Write a 60-word answer using: **Harishena · Samudragupta · prashasti**. [3]

> Harishena, the court poet of Samudragupta, composed the Prayaga prashasti in Sanskrit, praising the king as a great warrior and poet.

23 words · limit 60

L12. Write a 60-word answer using: **gahapati · vellalar · adimai**. [3]

> Pali texts use gahapati for the head of a household who owned land. Tamil texts name vellalar as large landowners and adimai as slaves – both show sharp rural differences.

29 words · limit 60

Drill 3 · The missing link

1 mark each

L13. Missing step between "Iron mines, elephants, the Ganga" and "Magadha becomes the most powerful mahajanapada". [1]

> Productive farming and cheap transport give Magadha surplus and military strength.

11 words

L14. Missing step between "Asoka conquers Kalinga" and "Asoka spreads dhamma through inscriptions". [1]

> The king feels remorse at the killing and suffering of the war.

12 words

L15. Missing step between "Spices and textiles in demand in Rome" and "Roman coin hoards found in south India". [1]

> Indian merchants export pepper and textiles by sea and are paid in Roman gold.

14 words

Drill 4 · Odd one out

1 mark each

L16. Find the odd one out and give the link that joins the other three: **Taxila · Ujjayini · Tosali · Puhar** [1]

> Odd one out: **Puhar** (a Chola port). The other three were **Mauryan provincial centres** named in Asokan inscriptions.

18 words