

*Exercises***Let's recall****Question 1:**

Make a list of the occupations of the people who lived within the Mauryan empire.

Solution 1:

List of the occupations within Mauryan empire are:

- Farming
- Herding
- Hunting-gathering
- Trading
- Handicrafts

Question 2:

Complete the following sentences:

- (a) Officials collected ____ from the area under the direct control of the ruler.
(b) Royal princes often went to the provinces as ____ _
(c) The Mauryan rulers tried to control ____ and ____ which were important for transport.
(d) People in forested regions provided the Mauryan officials with ____ _

Solution 2:

- (a) Officials collected *tax* from the area der the direct control of the ruler.
(b) Royal princes often went to the provinces as *governor*.
(c) The Mauryan rulers tried to control *roads* and *rivers* which were important for transport.
(d) People in forested regions provided the Mauryan officials with *elephants, timber, honey and wax*.

Question 3:

State whether true or false:

- (a) Ujjain was the gateway to the north-west.
(b) Chandragupta's ideas were written down in the Arthashastra.
(c) Kalinga was the ancient name of Bengal.
(d) Most Ashokan inscriptions are in the Brahmi script.

Solution 3:

- (a) Ujjain was the gateway to the north-west. **False**
(b) Chandragupta's ideas were written down in the Arthashastra. **False**
(c) Kalinga was the ancient name of Bengal. **True**
(d) Most Ashokan inscriptions are in the Brahmi script. **True**

Let's discuss**Question 4:**

What were the problems that Ashoka wanted to solve by introducing *dhamma*?

Solution 4:

There were a number of problems that troubled Ashoka and he wanted to solve those problems. These were:

- People in the empire followed different religions, and this sometimes led to conflict.
- Animals were sacrificed.
- *Slaves* and servants were ill-treated.
- There were quarrels in families and amongst neighbours.

Question 5:

What were the means adopted by Ashoka to spread the message of *dhamma*?

Solution 5:

The methods adopted to spread the message of *dhamma* were:

- Ashoka appointed officials, known as the *dhamma mahamatta* who went from place to place teaching people about *dhamma*.
- Ashoka got his messages inscribed on rocks and pillars, instructing his officials to read his message to those who could *not* read it themselves.
- Ashoka also sent messengers to spread ideas about *dhamma* to other lands, such as Syria, Egypt, Greece and Sri Lanka.

Question 6:

Why do you think slaves and servants were ill-treated? Do you think the orders of the emperor would have improved their condition? *Give* reasons for your answer.

Solution 6:

Mostly the *slaves* and servants were prisoners that is why they were ill-treated. Yes, orders of emperor would have improved the condition as he was the head of the state. He could issue law of punishment regarding this.