

CBSE Class – VII Social Science
NCERT Solutions
History Chapter 06
Towns, Traders and Craft persons

Q1: Fill in the blanks:

- (a) The Rajarajeshvara temple was built in_____.
- (b) Ajmer is associated with the Sufi saint_____.
- (c) Hampi was the capital of the_____Empire.
- (d) The Dutch established a settlement at_____in Andhra Pradesh.

Solution:

- (a) The Rajarajeshvara temple was built in_1010 A.D._.
- (b) Ajmer is associated with the Sufi saint _Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti.
- (c) Hampi was the capital of the_ Vijayanagara__Empire.
- (d) The Dutch established a settlement at __ Masulipatnam_in Andhra Pradesh.

Q2: State whether true or false:

- (a) **We know the name of the architect of the Rajarajeshvara temple from an inscription.**
- (b) **Merchants preferred to travel individually rather than in caravans.**
- (c) **Kabul was a major centre for trade in elephants.**
- (d) **Surat was an important trading port on the Bay of Bengal.**

Solution:

- (a) True
- (b) False
- (c) False
- (d) False

Q3: How was water supplied to the city of Thanjavur?

Solution:

Water was supplied to the city of Thanjavur from tanks and wells.

Q4: Who lived in the “Black Towns” in cities such as Madras?

Solution:

Merchants and artisans lived in “Black Towns” in cities such as Madras. The “blacks” or native traders and crafts persons were confined here while the “white” rulers occupied the superior residencies of Fort St George in Madras or Fort St William in Calcutta.

Q5: Why do you think towns grew around temples?**Solution:**

- Towns grew around temples because:
- Temples were central to the economy and the society.
- Rulers endowed temples with grants of land and money to carry out elaborate rituals, feed pilgrims and priests and celebrate festivals. Pilgrims who flocked to the temples also made donations.
- Temples were centres for commercial activities and craft production.
- Temple authorities used their wealth to finance trade and banking. Also, the large number of pilgrims provided ample opportunities for traders and artisans to conduct business.

Some examples of temple towns are Bhilassvamin (Bhilsa or Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh), and Somnath in Gujarat.

Q6: How important were crafts persons for the building and maintenance of temples?**Solution:**

- Bronze smiths, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, carpenters and masons contributed to building temples.
- Crafts persons played a crucial role in the building and adorning of temples with gold, silver, alloy-work and textile and wood products.
- Crafts persons also catered to the needs of pilgrims, thereby forming an important part of the ongoing trade.
- Prosperous weavers also made donations to temples.

Q7: Why did people from distant lands visit Surat?**Solution:**

People from distant lands visited Surat because it was the gateway of trade with west Asia.

- Surat was the gateway for trade with West Asia via the Gulf of Ormuz. Surat has also been called the gate to Mecca because many pilgrim ships set sail from Surat.
- In the seventeenth century, the Portuguese, Dutch and English had their factories and warehouses at Surat.
- The textiles of Surat were famous for their gold lace borders (zari) and had a market in West Asia, Africa and Europe.
- The state built numerous rest-houses for people from all over the world who came to the city.
- The Kathiawad seths or mahajans (moneychangers) had huge banking houses at Surat.
- The Surat hund is were honoured in the far-off markets of Cairo in Egypt, Basra in Iraq and Antwerp in Belgium.
- Due to these reasons, people from distant lands visited Surat.

Q8: In what ways was craft production in cities like Calcutta different from that in cities like Thanjavur?

Solution:

The differences between craft production in cities like Calcutta and Thanjavur were:

- Craft production in cities like Calcutta was formally organized and planned by the European companies. In Thanjavur, the crafts persons were independent.
- Crafts persons in Calcutta were not free to sell their own crafts and textiles whereas in Thanjavur, the crafts persons were free to sell their products.
- In Calcutta, crafts persons worked on a system of advances and in Thanjavur, crafts were developed on interest.
- The crafts persons at Calcutta had to reproduce the designs supplied to them by the Company agents.
- Merchants and artisans (such as weavers) in Calcutta were moved into the Black Towns established by the European companies within new cities. They were not as free as the crafts persons at Thanjavur.