

## Chapter 4 – Metal

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### Exercise

#### Question 1:

The metal worker's craft is indispensable in India. List their contributions in different sectors like agriculture, construction, transportation etc.

#### Answer 1:

A list of the contributions of metal worker's crafts include but not limited to:

- Tools used of ploughing
- Utensils and culinary we use in the kitchen
- Many functional parts of vehicles
- Rods and iron frames for building
- Jewellery

#### Question 2:

Refer to a national newspaper and record the prevailing rates of gold and silver. Plot a graph showing the price fluctuation of these metals over a fortnight/month. What factors do you think contribute to this fluctuation?

#### Answer 2:

There are many factors which contribute to the price of gold and silver. These factors include:

- Inflation
- The supply of metal
- Monsoon harvest
- Exchange trade funds

The graph of the prices will have the price on the y axis and time on the x axis.

We can see that the prices are on the rise over a period of month. The graph contains two upward sloping lines to denote rising prices.

#### Question 3:

Traditionally, metal objects were sold by weight and the cost of workmanship was not taken into consideration for deciding the price. In the West the cost of workmanship is often greater than the value of the material. In your opinion how

should the price of an object be determined? Give reasons to support your argument.

**Answer 3:**

In my opinion, there are various ways to determine the price of a material. It is total injustice to a person to not pay someone for their services.

- A good way to handle this dispute is to pay the craftsmen the full price of the materials and half the price of the material as remuneration for their work.

**Question 4:**

Looking at the map page of this chapter, create a table listing reasons why various metal work techniques are used in different parts of the country (see following example). Define precisely each one of the processes. In your own region find out which of these techniques are used in working with metals.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Technique</i>	<i>Process</i>
Himachal Pradesh	Repoussé	A thin metal sheet is placed on a carved wooden block and hammered so that the design appears clearly on the metal sheet.

**Answer 4:**

The techniques used by the craftsmen varies from one area to another because of availability of material and the temperature of the location. It also depends on the kinds of things people like in a certain area.

**Question 5:**

Metalsmiths are indispensable in our lives. Find out their social status in your region. Are they called to perform any special ceremonies?

**Answer 5:**

Metal smiths play an important role in all our lives, almost all the utensils we use in our daily kitchen chores are their products. In my region, most professions are treated with equal respect; hence the black smiths in my region have a good social status. People see them as an important part of the society with many

gifts to offer. Although they are not called to perform special ceremonies, their products play a crucial part of many special ceremonies.

**Question 6:**

Sudhin Ghosh's passage explains the crucial role that fire plays in metal crafts. What measures can you suggest to reduce fire and smoke related hazards?

**Answer 6:**

The livelihood of a metal smith depends on two things, metal and fire. Both are things which are hazardous for health. But this wouldn't stop a craftsman from his craft so it is important to notify them on the safety measures they need to take.

For example:

- They must wear thick gloves while handling hot metal
- Their eyes must be protected at all times with thick glasses
- They must have a fire extinguisher near them for emergencies.

**Question 7:**

In several religions, precious and semi-precious metal objects are used. Find out what these are and who makes them.

**Answer 7:**

The Kings and many wealthy and noble landowners stored precious and semi-precious metals. These metals were made into objects by the goldsmiths and silversmiths. It was used for various purposes.

- These objects are stored along with other expensive objects in the treasure.
- Some of these objects were displayed in religious rituals.
- This was also a symbol of wealth and power in temples.
- Also, in Hindu temples we see various idols adorned with the different ornaments made of gold and silver. These are made by the metal smiths.