

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. How did the Gupta empire emerge?

Ans. After the downfall of the Mauryas, many new empires emerged. Satavahanas and Kushanas emerged as new kingdoms. However, by the middle of third century AD, both these kingdoms also declined. In the third century AD, a new powerful kingdom emerged. It was the Gupta dynasty which emerged in Magadha. Their rule lasted for over 200 years.

Q.2. What was the contribution of Aryabhata?

Ans. Among the notable astronomers and mathematicians of the Gupta age, Aryabhata stands out as the most important. A few of his works Aryabhatiyam, Dasagitikasura and Aryashtasala have come down to us. He was the first to treat mathematics as a distinct subject.

Q.3. How were paintings developed under Gupta Age?

Ans. The art of painting reached its height of glory and splendour during the Gupta age. The most celebrated examples were the paintings in the Buddhist caves in Ajanta and Bagh Caves at Gwalior. On the walls of these caves were painted scenes of the life of the Buddha. There were also charming and delicate scenes of home and palace life, sports, festivities and processions.

Q.4. How did Guptas decline?

Ans. Chandragupta II was succeeded by his son Kumaragupta. During his reign, the Gupta empire suffered severe blows due to the attacks of powerful enemy states. He had to put a tough fight for the preservation of the empire. Skandagupta was the last great king of the Gupta dynasty who succeeded to the throne in AD 455. After his death, the power of imperial Gupta empire began to decline considerably and ultimately collapsed completely in the middle of the sixth century AD.

Q.5. Write a note on Chalukyas.

Ans. The Chalukya empire extended from South of Vindhyas till river Krishna. Vatapi was their capital. Pulakeshin II was the most powerful king of this dynasty. He defeated king Harsha in the north and Mahendravarman, the Pallava king in the south. His kingdom extended from Arabian Sea to Bay of Bengal, from the Narmada river to the Palar river. However, later he was defeated by the Pallava king Narasimhavarman. The Rashtrakutas of Deccan destroyed the power of Chalukyas in totality.

Q.6. Write a note on art and architecture under Chalukyas.

Ans. The capital city of Vatapi saw the construction of a number of temples of Shiva and Vishnu. The murals at Ajanta help us to know about this period, dress and lifestyle.

They even encouraged sculptures at Ellora. The Ajanta and Ellora caves near Aurangabad in Maharashtra are still famous tourist attractions.

Q.7. Who were the Pallavas?

Ans. Far deep in the South arose the Kingdom of Pallavas which ruled from 6th– 8th century AD. Kanchi or Kanjeevaram was their capital. The Pallavas fought many battles against Pandyas and Chalukyas. Mahendravarman I was one of the greatest Pallava rulers. He was succeeded by his son Narasimhavarman I who conquered many parts of Sri Lanka. After his death, Pallava rule declined due to frequent wars and weak successors.