

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. How did Mahajanapadas evolve in India? Why did they evolve?

Ans.

- i. About 2,500 years ago, some Janapadas became more important than others, and were formed as Mahajanapads.
- ii. Mahajanapadas were formed to defend their land from rivals. They were governed by rulers or rajas each having their own army and capital.
- iii. To become prominent, kings aimed to reflect their prosperity and power by fortifying their kingdoms, towns and cities.

Q.2. Give features of Mahajanapadas.

Ans.

- i. Each janapada was ruled by a king.
- ii. Income was collected by taxes.
- iii. The villagers were controlled by a headman called Gramini. He reported to the king directly.

Q.3. What do you know about the rulers of Magadha?

Ans.

- i. Magadha had two very powerful rulers Bimbisara and Ajatshatru, who made all efforts to conquer other Janapadas.
- ii. Mahapadma Nanda was another important ruler, who extended his control up to North-West part of the subcontinent.
- iii. Rajagriha in Bihar was the capital of Magadha for several years.