

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. Describe the features of the Mauryan society.

Ans.

- i. Megasthenes gives seven divisions in society. The division was based on the different occupations of the people.
- ii. Varna system is mentioned in the Ashokan edicts. However, it was not very rigid.
- iii. Social inequalities did exist. Women were employed as the king's bodyguards and even as spies.

Q.2. How did the Mauryan Empire decline?

Ans. After the death of Ashoka in 232 BC, the central control from Pataliputra became weak, as they had neither the acumen nor the leadership skills of their predecessors. Such a vast empire, therefore became difficult to be managed, as the network of roads was damaged by floods. The state became financially weak, as the administration failed to collect revenues. Provinces started disintegrating and in 185 BC, the Mauryan Empire declined.