

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Kingdoms, Kings and an Early Republic

Q1. How were the Mahajanapadas different from Janapadas?

Ans.

	Mahajanapadas	Janapadas
1.		1.
2.		2.

Q2. Why did people oppose the system of varnas?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Q3. Write a short note on the governance system in 'Ganas' and 'Sanghas'.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Kingdoms, Kings and an Early Republic

Q1. How were the Mahajanapadas different from Janapadas?

Ans.

Mahajanapadas	Janapadas
1. About 2500 years ago, some janapadas became more important than others, and were known as mahajanapadas.	1. The word janapada literally means the land where the jana set its foot, and settled down.
2. Example: Kosala, Anga, Vajji, Panchala, Avanti, Gandhara etc.	2. Example: Chedi, Aja, Bharata, Puru, Mahavrisha etc.

Q2. Why did people oppose the system of varnas?

Ans. Many people did not accept the system of varna laid down by the Brahmins:-

- i. Some kings thought they were superior to the priests.
- ii. Others felt that birth could not be a basis for deciding which varna people belonged to.
- iii. Besides, some people felt that there should be no differences amongst people based on occupation.
- iv. Others felt that everybody should be able to perform rituals.
- v. And others condemned the practice of untouchability.

Q3. Write a short note on the governance system in 'Ganas' and 'Sanghas'.

- Ans.
- i. In a gana or a sangha there were not one, but many rulers. Sometimes, even when thousands of men ruled together, each one was known as a raja.
  - ii. These rajas performed rituals together. They also met in assemblies, and decided what had to be done and how, through discussion and debate.
  - iii. However, women, dasas and kammakaras could not participate in these assemblies.