

Name: _____ Date: _____

Towns, Traders and Craftspersons

Q1. What were the reasons for the decline of Surat?

Ans. _____

Q2. How important were craftspersons for the building and maintenance of temples?

Ans. _____

Q3. Write a note on taxes on market in 10th century.

Ans. _____

Towns, Traders and Craftspersons

Q1. What were the reasons for the decline of Surat?

Ans. However, Surat began to decline towards the end of the seventeenth century. This was because of many factors:

- i. The loss of markets and productivity because of the decline of the Mughal Empire.
- ii. Control of the sea routes by the Portuguese and competition from Bombay (present-day Mumbai) where the English East India Company shifted its headquarters in 1668.

Q2. How important were craftspersons for the building and maintenance of temples?

Ans. Craftspersons were important for the building and maintenance of temples:

- i. The Panchalas or Vishwakarma community, consisting of goldsmiths, bronzesmiths, blacksmiths, masons and carpenters, were essential to the building of temples.
- ii. Similarly, weavers such as the Saliyar or Kaikkolars emerged as prosperous communities, making donations to temples.

Q3. Write a note on taxes on market in 10th century.

Ans. There were taxes in kind on:

Sugar and jaggery, dyes, thread, and cotton,
On coconuts, salt, areca nuts, butter, sesame oil,
On cloth

Besides, there were taxes on traders, on those who sold metal goods, on distillers, on oil, on cattle fodder, and on loads of grain. Some of these taxes were collected in kind, while others were collected in cash.