

Name: _____ Date: _____

Towns, Traders and Craftspersons

Q1. In what ways was craft production in cities like Calcutta different from that in cities like Thanjavur?

Ans. _____

Q2. Write a note about network of small towns that emerged after eighth century onward.

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Q1. In what ways was craft production in cities like Calcutta different from that in cities like Thanjavur?

Ans. Craft persons of Calcutta began to work on a system of advances which meant that they had to weave cloth which was already promised to European agents. Weavers no longer had the liberty of selling their own cloth or weaving their own patterns. They had to reproduce the designs supplied to them by the Company agents.

Craft persons of Thanjavur were independent. They had the liberty of selling their own cloth or crafts. The Saliya weavers of Thanjavur and the nearby town of Uraiyur produce cloth for flags to be used in the temple festival, fine cottons for the king and nobility and coarse cotton for the masses. The sthapatis or sculptors make exquisite bronze idols and tall, ornamental bell metal lamps.

Q2. Write a note about network of small towns that emerged after eighth century onward.

Ans. From the eighth century onwards the subcontinent was dotted with several small towns.

i. Small towns probably emerged from large villages. They usually had a mandapika (or mandi of later times) to which nearby villagers brought their produce to sell.

ii. They also had market streets called hatta lined with shops. Besides, there were streets for different kinds of artisans such as potters, oil pressers, sugar makers, toddy makers, smiths, stonemasons, etc.

iii. While some traders lived in the town, others travelled from town to town. Many came from far and near to these towns to buy local articles and sell products of distant places like horses, salt, camphor, saffron, betel nut and spices like pepper.