VIDEO 12 • SECTION 2.3 • MODULE 2 — ANCIENT BIHAR

Mahajanapadas in Bihar — Magadha, Anga and the Vajji Republic

20 MCQs on this lecture • Answer key with explanations at the end • Attempt all questions first, then check

Q1. The Buddhist text that lists the sixteen Mahajanapadas is the:

(a) Anguttara Nikaya
(b) Bhagavati Sutra
(c) Digha Nikaya
(d) Mahavamsa

Q2. Which three Mahajanapadas lay wholly or largely in present Bihar?

(a) Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa
(b) Magadha, Anga, Vajji
(c) Anga, Malla, Kashi
(d) Vajji, Malla, Kosala

Q3. Magadha's first capital was:

(a) Pataliputra
(b) Vaishali
(c) Girivraja / Rajagriha (Rajgir)
(d) Champa

Q4. Rajgir, Magadha's early capital, was protected by:

(a) A wooden wall
(b) The river Ganga
(c) A moat only
(d) Five hills

Q5. The capital of Anga was:

(a) Champa, near Bhagalpur
(b) Munger
(c) Vaishali
(d) Banka

Q6. Anga was annexed by:

(a) Ajatashatru
(b) Bimbisara
(c) Udayin
(d) Mahapadma Nanda

Q7. The Vajji confederacy consisted of how many clans (atthakula)?

(a) Four
(b) Sixteen
(c) Eight
(d) Seven

Q8. The leading clan of the Vajji confederacy was the:

(a) Videhas
(b) Mallas
(c) Jnatrikas
(d) Lichchhavis

Q9. Ancient Vaishali is identified with modern:

(a) Basarh
(b) Hajipur
(c) Muzaffarpur
(d) Lalganj

Q10. The Malla Mahajanapada had its capitals at:

(a) Champa and Rajagriha
(b) Kushinara and Pava
(c) Vaishali and Mithila
(d) Kashi and Ayodhya

Q11. The Vajji assembly met in the:

(a) Vihara
(b) Khanqah
(c) Santhagara
(d) Chaitya

Q12. Jataka stories speak of how many rajas of Vaishali?

(a) 16
(b) 500
(c) 1,000
(d) 7,707

Q13. Chetaka, a Lichchhavi chief, was the brother of:

(a) Trishala, Mahavira's mother
(b) Chellana
(c) Amrapali
(d) Kumaradevi

Q14. Chetaka's daughter Chellana married:

(a) Ajatashatru
(b) Bimbisara
(c) Udayin
(d) Prasenajit

Q15. The Buddha's 'seven conditions' for the welfare of the Vajjis were told to:

(a) Ananda
(b) Ajatashatru
(c) Vassakara, minister of Ajatashatru
(d) Chetaka

Q16. Why should Vaishali be called a republic but not a democracy?

(a) It had a hereditary king
(b) Decisions were not taken by vote
(c) It had no assembly
(d) Only Kshatriya clan heads voted; slaves, labourers and women had no vote

Q17. Officers of the Vajji assembly included the:

(a) Ganapati / ganapramukha
(b) Amatya / mantri
(c) Shiqdar / munsif
(d) Senapati / purohita

Q18. The Ganga separated Magadha and Anga (south) from:

(a) Kosala
(b) The Vajji confederacy (north)
(c) Malla
(d) Kashi

Q19. Which annual festival celebrates Vaishali's republican heritage and Mahavira's birth?

(a) Rajgir Mahotsav
(b) Sonepur Mela
(c) Vaishali Mahotsav
(d) Shravani Mela

Q20. Match the Mahajanapada with its capital:
1. Magadha — Rajagriha
2. Anga — Champa
3. Vajji — Vaishali
4. Malla — Kushinara
Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer Key

Q1	(a)	Q5	(a)	Q9	(a)	Q13	(a)	Q17	(a)
Q2	(b)	Q6	(b)	Q10	(b)	Q14	(b)	Q18	(b)
Q3	(c)	Q7	(c)	Q11	(c)	Q15	(c)	Q19	(c)
Q4	(d)	Q8	(d)	Q12	(d)	Q16	(d)	Q20	(d)

Explanations

Q1. Answer: (a) Anguttara Nikaya
Anguttara Nikaya. The Jain Bhagavati Sutra gives a slightly different list.

Q2. Answer: (b) Magadha, Anga, Vajji
Magadha, Anga and Vajji. Malla lay mostly in eastern UP.

Q3. Answer: (c) Girivraja / Rajagriha (Rajgir)
Girivraja/Rajagriha; Pataliputra came later under Udayin.

Q4. Answer: (d) Five hills
Five hills around Rajgir.

Q5. Answer: (a) Champa, near Bhagalpur
Champa near Bhagalpur — not Munger. It was a river port and trade centre.

Q6. Answer: (b) Bimbisara
Bimbisara — Magadha's first conquest.

Q7. Answer: (c) Eight
Eight clans — Lichchhavis, Videhas, Jnatrikas, Vajjis and others.

Q8. Answer: (d) Lichchhavis
The Lichchhavis of Vaishali. 'Vajji = Lichchhavi' is only partly correct.

Q9. Answer: (a) Basarh
Basarh, Vaishali district.

Q10. Answer: (b) Kushinara and Pava
Kushinara and Pava — mostly Deoria–Kushinagar (UP); the Buddha died at Kushinara.

Q11. Answer: (c) Santhagara
Santhagara (assembly hall).

Q12. Answer: (d) 7,707
7,707.

Q13. Answer: (a) Trishala, Mahavira's mother
His sister Trishala was Mahavira's mother; his daughter Chellana married Bimbisara.

Q14. Answer: (b) Bimbisara
Bimbisara.

Q15. Answer: (c) Vassakara, minister of Ajatashatru
Vassakara.

Q16. Answer: (d) Only Kshatriya clan heads voted; slaves, labourers and women had no vote
It was a gana-sangha of the Kshatriya clan aristocracy (an oligarchy).

Q17. Answer: (a) Ganapati / ganapramukha
Ganapati / ganapramukha.

Q18. Answer: (b) The Vajji confederacy (north)
The Vajji confederacy lay north of the Ganga.

Q19. Answer: (c) Vaishali Mahotsav
Vaishali Mahotsav.

Q20. Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
All four are correct.

Watch the full lecture (Video 12) on YouTube: @Study_ForGS • More free PDFs: StudyForGS.com