

CHP-7 THE GUPTA ERA ANSWER KEY

GEAR UP

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I would like to study mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and philosophy at Nalanda. These subjects would help me gain knowledge about science, health, and deep thinking, which were highly valued during the Gupta period. *(Answer may vary)*

PROGRESS MILESTONE

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- | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. (✓) | 2. (✗) | 3. (✓) | 4. (✗) |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|

PROGRESS MILESTONE

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- | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. (✗) | 2. (✓) | 3. (✗) | 4. (✓) |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|

LET US PRACTISE

PAGES 114–115

- A. 1. (c) It witnessed exceptional achievements in art, science and literature.
2. (c) Chandragupta II
3. (b) Fa-Hien (Faxian)
4. (c) Daughter of Chandragupta II and regent of the Vaṅkaṭaka kingdom
- B. 1. Vikramaḍitya 2. court poet 3. land tax 4. Viṣṇu
- C. 1. Images of kings performing various activities (like playing the veena, hunting, or performing rituals) were often depicted on Gupta coins.
2. The famous cave paintings of the Gupta period are found at Ajanta.
3. The script used in most Gupta inscriptions was Brahmi.
4. Aṛyabhaṭa contributed to the field of astronomy and mathematics.
- D. 1. Samudragupta was one of the greatest rulers of the Gupta Empire, known as the “Napoleon of India.”
Achievements:
- He expanded the empire through successful military campaigns.
 - He encouraged art and culture and was skilled in music (shown playing the veena on coins).
2. Gupta period is known as the “Classical Age” of ancient India because this period saw remarkable progress in art, architecture, literature, science, mathematics and governance. The achievements of this era became models for later generations.
3. The main features of Gupta administration are:
- Strong central authority supported by provincial and local administration
 - Empire divided into provinces (Bhuktis), districts (Vishayas) and villages
 - Efficient revenue system based on land tax
 - Local self-governance in villages
 - Kings were powerful but consulted ministers and officials
4. The Ajanta paintings show the high artistic skills of Gupta artists—their ability to depict emotions, natural beauty and Buddhist stories with grace, realism and vibrant colours.

E. 1. Major achievements of the Gupta Empire in art, architecture and literature

The Gupta period saw tremendous creativity:

- Art: Beautiful sculptures of Buddha and Hindu deities with calm expressions and elegant styles.
- Architecture: Development of stone temples, pillars, and cave structures such as Ajanta.
- Literature: Works of great scholars like Kālidāsa (e.g., Abhijnana Shakuntalam), grammar, poetry, and Sanskrit literature flourished.

2. Contribution of Gupta rulers to science and mathematics

- Aryabhaṭa introduced the concept of zero, place value system, and calculated pi.
- Advances in astronomy, including explaining eclipses scientifically.
- Development in medicine by Charaka and Suśruta.
- Progress in metallurgy, shown by the rust-free Iron Pillar in Delhi.

3. The Gupta Empire had a well-organised and efficient administrative system in which the king was the supreme authority, supported by ministers, officials and local administrators. Provinces were divided into smaller units such as districts and villages, and local officers handled revenue collection, law and order and daily governance. The system focused on maintaining peace, prosperity and public welfare. Unlike earlier systems, the Gupta administration was more decentralised and humane, giving greater importance to local bodies and village councils. Justice was mild and compassionate, and the government paid special attention to safety and welfare, making the overall administration more stable and people-friendly than before.

4. Faxian's account shows that Gupta India enjoyed remarkable peace, prosperity and cultural vibrancy. He observed that people felt so safe that they could leave their doors unlocked, indicating strong security and public confidence in the administration. Justice was fair and compassionate rather than harsh, and healthcare was accessible to all social classes, reflecting the government's humanitarian approach. His descriptions of cities such as Pataliputra and Mathurā highlight the empire's efficient governance, religious tolerance and well-organised society, proving that the Gupta administration was both sophisticated and deeply concerned about the well-being of its people.

F. 1. Faxian visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II.

- 2.** Faxian's account shows that the Gupta administration was peaceful, well-organised and humane. Justice was mild and compassionate, and the government ensured safety, prosperity and public welfare, including access to healthcare.
- 3.** According to Faxian, social life in the Gupta period was marked by peace, security and prosperity. People felt safe enough to leave their doors unlocked, lived peacefully, and had access to healthcare across social classes, showing a caring and organised society.

ASSERTION-REASON QUESTIONS

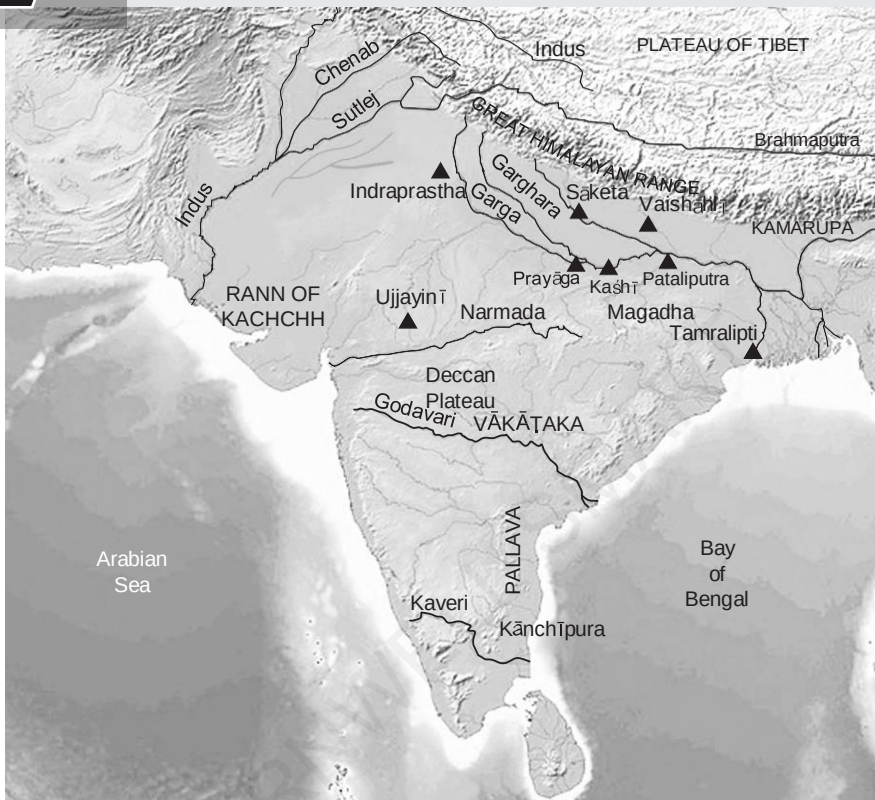
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1. (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
2. (d) (A) is false but (R) is true.

PICTURE-BASED QUESTIONS

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1. Samudragupta is shown playing a veena.
2. The image shows he was not only a powerful ruler but also a patron of arts, cultured, talented and fond of music.

**HOTS (HIGHER-ORDER THINKING SKILLS)****PAGE 116**

Ajanta paintings mainly show Buddhist themes and scenes from the Jātaka stories. So, I would choose stories related to the life of the Buddha and his previous lives. I would also paint royal processions, musicians, dancers and everyday life, because the Gupta period is known for its artistic excellence and cultural richness. These themes would reflect the peace, prosperity and creativity of the Gupta Age.

LIFE SKILLS**PAGE 116**

Gupta coins showed rulers and symbols that reflected their power and achievements, I would design a modern coin using similar ideas: I would include a symbol of unity or equality (such as people standing together). I would add the Ashoka Chakra, because it represents justice and good governance. Like Gupta coins carried inscriptions, I would add the words “Republic of India” and “Equality” to show our modern values. This coin would reflect what the Gupta coins tried to show: the values and identity of the empire, but updated for modern Indian principles.

(Answer may vary)