

Grade : VI

Subject : Social science

Chapter: 11. Buildings, paintings and Books

Objective Type Questions

I. Multiple choice questions

1. Which Kushana ruler organised the Buddhist Council?
a. Chandragupta b. Harsha c. Kanishka d. Theravada
2. The iron pillar is situated at:
a. Kanpur b. Delhi c. Bombay d. Gaya
3. The Tamil Epic Silappadikaram was composed by:
a. Ilango b. Kalhana c. Kalidasa d. Bhairavi
4. Aryabhata was a:
a. Mathematician b. Astronomer c. Both d. Both (a) & (b)
5. The Puranas were written in:
a. Hindi b. Telugu c. Prakrit d. Sanskrit

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|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (b) | 3. (a) | 4. (c) | 5. (d) |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|

I. Fill in the blanks

1. Two Sanskrit epics, the _____ and _____ had been popular for a very long time.
2. The Mahabharata is about a war fought between the _____ and _____ who were cousins.
3. The Ramayana is about _____ a prince of Kosala, who was sent into exile.
4. Rama won and returned to _____ the capital of _____ after his victory.
5. _____ is recognised as the author of the Sanskrit Ramayana.

6. _____ a mathematician and astronomer, wrote a book in Sanskrit known as the Aryabhatiyam.
7. Aryabhata also found a way of _____ the circumference of a circle.
8. _____ was invented in China about 1900 years ago.
9. The _____ contain stories about God and Goddesses.
10. _____ are grand, long compositions about heroic men and women and include stories about gods.
11. A famous Tamil epic, the _____ was composed by a poet named Ilango, around 1800 years ago.
12. The _____ at Mehrauli, Delhi is a remarkable example of the skill of Indian crafts persons.
13. The word stupa means a _____.
14. Deities such as _____, _____ and _____ were worshipped in these shrines.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Mahabharata, Ramayana | 2. Kaurava, Pandavas |
| 3. Rama | 4. Ayodhya, Kosala |
| 5. Valmiki | 6. Aryabhata |
| 7. Calculating | 8. Paper |
| 9. Puranas | 10. Epics |
| 11. Silappadikaram | 12. Iron pillar |
| 13. Mound | 14. Vishnu, Shiva, Durga |

I. Match the following

| Column A | Column B |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Sanskrit Ramayana | a. Cave paintings |
| 2. Ajanta | b. Ayodhya |
| 3. Priests performed religions rituals at | c. Valmiki |
| 4. The capital of Kosala | d. 1500 years ago |
| 5. Making of the iron pillar | e. Garbhagriha |

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|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (a) | 3. (e) | 4. (b) | 5. (d) |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|

I. State true or false

1. Merchant and farmers usually decided to build stupas and temples during this period.
2. Meghaduta is a famous poem composed by Tulsidas.
3. It was Ravana who abducted Rama's wife Sita.
4. Mahabalipuram and Aihole are known for the finest stone temples.
5. The Tamil epic-the Silappadikaram was composed by a poet named Ilango.
6. Women and shudras could hear the stories of the Puranas.

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|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. False | 2. False | 3. True | 4. True | 5. True | 6. True |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Name the God who that were worshipped in the earliest Hindus temples.

Deities such as Vishnu, Shiva and Durga were worshipped in the earliest Hindu temples.

2. Name two famous Sanskrit epics.

Ramayana and Mahabharata are two famous Sanskrit epics.

3. What is a temple?

Temple is a place where Hindu people worship their Gods.

4. What is science?

Systematic knowledge based on different experiments and reasoning is called science.

5. What do you mean by Stupas?

Stupa means a mound. In most of the stupas, a small box called relic casket was kept and it contained the bodily remains of Buddha and his followers.

6. What do you know about Ajanta?

Ajanta is famous for its several caves decorated with paintings. Most of these caves were the monasteries of Buddhist monks.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. What is meant by sculptures?

The artisans of the ancient period excelled in making sculptures. The stone workers of the Mauryan period mastered the art of polishing stones. The Gandhara and Mathura schools of art, which excelled in sculpture flourished during the Kushana period.

2. What are epics?

Indian mythology consists of tales of Gods, the devas and the asuras. However, they are only two famous epics-Mahabharata and Ramayana. Epics are grand, long compositions about heroic men and women and include stories about Gods.

3. List some literary works on different subjects.

- (i) Arthashastra,
- (ii) Kalidasa's plays,
- (iii) Harsha charita,
- (iv) Sangam literature,
- (v) Works by foreign travellers.

4. State some features of the Iron Pillar in Delhi

The iron pillar at Mehrauli in Delhi is a remarkable example of the skills of Indian craftspersons:

- (i) It is made of iron, 7.2. m high and weighs over 3 tonnes.
- (ii) It was made about 1500 years ago.
- (iii) There is an inscription on the pillar mentioning a ruler named Chandra, who probably belonged to the Gupta dynasty.
- (iv) The pillar has not rusted in all these years.

5. Why were cave painting made in the earlier times?

Several caves were hollowed out the hills in the earlier times.

- (i) Most of these were monasteries for Buddhist monks and some of them were decorated with paintings.
- (ii) As the caves were dark inside, most of these paintings were done in the light of torches.
- (iii) The colours, which are glowing even after 1500 years, were made of plants and minerals.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Describe the different literatures prevailing in the ancient period.

India has a rich and varied culture. Every dynasty that ruled India added something to its heritage.

Different Literatures:

- (i) The Vedas and associated texts: The Vedas are the earliest literary works that we have. The word 'Veda' means knowledge. There are four Vedas- Rigveda, Samveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda. They contain hymns in praise of different Gods and Goddesses. Along with the Vedas, there are also 108 Upanishads: Puranas are sacred literature. There are 18 surviving puranas.
- (ii) The Epics: The Mahabharata was composed by sage Ved Vyasa. It is a story of two families of cousins- the Kauravas and the Pandavas. The Mahabharata also includes the Bhagvat Gita. The Ramayana was composed by sage Valmiki. It is the story of Rama, a prince of Ayodhya and his war with Ravana, the king of Lanka.
- (iii) Secular literature: The Arthashastra, Indika, Harshachrita, stories from the Jatakas and the Panchtantra, the works of Kalidasa and the accounts of foreign travellers are important secular works written during this period. There are many poems and plays in Sanskrit.
- (iv) Foreign travellers: Many travellers and pilgrims came to India. Fa Hein came during the reign of Chandragupta II. He spent six years in India, visiting Buddhist monasteries. When he went back, he wrote an account of his stay. His account gives a detailed description of the life of the people under the Gupta kings. Two centuries later, Hiuen Tsang came to India. He wrote about the conditions in those times. The ruler in the North was Harshavardhana. I-Tsing was another Chinese traveller who came to India.
- (v) The Sangam texts: the Sangam literature was written in Tamil. It mentions about the kingdoms of South India. The Silappadikaram and Manimekalai are the famous Tamil epics.

2. Who was Aryabhatta? What are the achievements?

- (i) Aryabhatta was a mathematician and astronomer who wrote a book in Sanskrit known as the Aryabhatiyam.
- (ii) He stated that day and night were caused by the rotation of the earth on its axis, even though it seems as if the sun is rising and setting every day.

- (iii) He developed a scientific explanation for eclipses as well.
- (iv) He also found a way of calculating the circumference of a circle, which is nearly as accurate as the formula we use today.

3. Describe the architecture of the earliest Hindu temples.

- (i) Some of the earliest Hindu temples were also built. Deities such as Vishnu, Shiva, and Durga were worshipped in these shrines.
- (ii) The most important part of the temple was the room known as the Garbhagriha, where the image of the chief deity was placed. It was here that priests performed religious rituals, and devotees offered worship to the deity.
- (iii) A tower, known as the Shikhara, was built on top of the Garbhagriha, to mark this out as a sacred place.
- (iv) Most temples also had a space known as the Mandapa. It was a hall where people could assemble.

4. How were Stupas and temples built?

- (i) There were several stages in building a Stupa or a temple. Usually, kings or queens decided to build there as it was an expensive affair.
- (ii) First, good quality stone had to be found, quarried and transported to the place which was often carefully chosen for the new building. Here, these rough blocks of stone had to be shaped and carved into pillars and panels for walls, floors and ceilings. Then these had to be placed in precisely in the right positions.
- (iii) Kings and queens probably spent money from their treasury to pay the crafts persons who worked to build these splendid structures.
- (iv) When devotees came to visit the temple or the stupa, they often brought gifts, which were used to decorate the buildings.
- (v) Among the others who paid for decorations were merchants, farmers, garland makers, perfumers, smiths, and hundreds of men and women who are known only by their names which were inscribed on pillars, railings and walls.

5. What is a Stupa? Mentions its features.

- (i) The word Stupa means a mound. There are several kinds of stupas, round and tall, big and small which can be found.
- (ii) There is a small box known as a relic casket, placed at the centre or heart of the Stupa. This may contain bodily remains (such as teeth, bone or ashes) of Buddha or his followers or the things which they used, as well as precious stones and coins. This box was covered with earth. Later, a layer

of mud brick or baked brick was added on top. And then, dome like structure was sometimes covered with carved stone slabs.

- (iii) Often, a path known as the Pradakshina Patha was laid around the Stupa. This was surrounded with railings.
- (iv) Entrance to the path was through gateways. Devotees walked around the stupa in a clockwise direction, as a mark of devotions.
- (v) Both railings and gateways were often decorated with sculptures.

6. What are Puranas? State some of their characteristics.

- (i) 'Purana' literally means 'old'. The Puranas contain stories about Gods and Goddesses, such as Vishnu, Shiva, Durga or Parvati.
- (ii) They contain details of how Gods and Goddesses were to be worshipped.
- (iii) There are accounts about the creation of the world and about kings.
- (iv) The Puranas were written in simple Sanskrit and were meant to be heard by everybody, including women and shudras, who were not allowed to study the Vedas.
- (v) They were probably recited in temples by priests, and people came to listen to them.



Next Generation School