

**Short-Answer Questions**

1. How did the caste system help in the rise of Jainism and Buddhism?

**Ans.** Men belonging to high castes had begun to hate the people of the lower castes, especially the Sudras. They were not allowed to enter temples and draw water out of their wells. Such treatment could not be tolerated by the common people for long. They were now yearning for such a religion where there were no class distinctions and where there was love and brotherly feeling instead of caste exclusiveness and atmosphere of hatred.

2. Why has Shravan Belagola become an important Jain pilgrimage site?

**Ans.** The colossal statue of Gomateshwara which is situated at Shravan Belagola in Karnataka is known for its huge height (about 70 feet) and grandeur.

3. Name two places where Buddhist and Jain rock-temples have been found.

**Ans.** Rock cave-cut Buddhist monasteries have been found at Ajanta and Ellora. These are the best examples of rock-cut architecture, sculpture and paintings. The Hathi Gumph, or Cave, in Odisha, the Indra Sabha Cave at Ellora are fine examples of rock-cut temples.

These were constructed in different parts of India for giving permanent places for Buddhist and Jain monks.

4. Mention two features of the Chaitya Hall, Karle.

**Ans.** The Chaitya Hall is associated with the Buddhist religion:

- (i) It served the purpose of a meeting hall or a service hall.
- (ii) There is an imposing stupa at the end of the Chaitya Hall which is decorated with an umbrella at the top.

5. Who built the cave-temples at Udayagiri?

**Ans.** The Lion Caves were built by Chandragupta II, who ruled the Gupta Empire in central India between CE 380–414 CE. Udayagiri are the fine specimens of the Jain art.

6. What are the two main features of the Sanchi Stupa? **Ans.** The Sanchi Stupa was built by Ashoka

in 3rd century BC.

- (i) It was enlarged to twice its original size during the Sunga period. Its old wooden railing was replaced by stone railing and four gateways were also added.
- (ii) This stupa is said to contain the relics of the Buddha and that is why it is regarded so sacred by the Buddhists.

7. Who was the founder of Jainism? Name the twenty-third Tirthankara.

**Ans.** Mahavira was the founder of Jainism. The twenty-third Tirthankara was Parshvanath.

8. State the three main teachings of Mahavira.

**Ans.** (i) According to Mahavira the ultimate goal of man is the attainment of 'Moksha' or freedom from worldly bondage. One can attain Moksha by following the 'Triratnas' or the three jewels. These are – (a) right faith (b) right knowledge and (c) right conduct.

(ii) The most important teaching of Jainism was Ahimsa or non-injury to everyone, they believed in not harming any living being.

(iii) Jains believed in hard penance. To die by starvation is regarded as a virtue by them.

9. State the five vows which every Jain has to take.

**Ans.** Every Jain has to take the following five vows:

- (i) Not to injure life
- (ii) Not to tell a lie
- (iii) Not to steal
- (iv) Not to possess any property and
- (v) To practise chastity

10. Name the two sects into which Jainism was later divided. **Ans.** Shwetambaras and Digambaras

11. Name three contributions which Jainism made to Indian architecture.

**Ans.** (i) The Jain temple at Mount Abu in Rajasthan is a fine specimen of Jain temple architecture.

(ii) The Hathi Gumph or Cave in Orissa is the fine specimen of the Jain art.



(iii) Jains built beautiful temples and images at Pawapuri and Rajgriha in Bihar.

12. Mention one contribution to literature made by the Jains. In which language was it written?

Ans. The chief works of the Jains called the Angas are written in Prakrit.

13. Who was the founder of Buddhism? Ans. Gautama Buddha

14. What are the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism? Ans. (i) This world is full of sorrows.

(ii) Desires are the main cause of these sorrows.

(iii) One can get rid of these sorrows by killing desires.

(iv) The desires can be killed only by following the Eight-Fold path.

15. What principles did the Eight-Fold Path include? Ans. The Eight-fold Path consisted the following principles.

(i) Right belief

(ii) Right Thought

(iii) Right Speech

(iv) Right Action

(v) Right Living

(vi) Right Effort

(vii) Right Recollection

(viii) Right Meditation

### Structured Essay-Type Questions

1. With reference to the life and teachings of Mahavira, explain the following :

(a) When and where was Mahavira born?

(b) For how many years did Mahavira practise self-discipline?

(c) Describe any two of his teachings.

Ans. (a) He was born at Kunda-grama near Vaishali in 540 B.C. His father Siddhartha was the head of the Kshatriya clan known as Janatrika.

(b) He practised severe discipline and self mortification and suffered hardships for 12 years.

(c) His main teachings were :

(i) Ahimsa: The first and foremost principle of Jainism was Ahimsa or non-injury to every one. It is why most of the Jains walk barefoot, filter water before drinking and even tie a band of cloth over their mouth so that they may not kill small insects. They even take care not to injure any plant or tree, nor to cause pain to men, birds and beasts.

(ii) No faith in the caste system—Jainism struck a deadly blow to the caste system and all sorts of distinctions. It preached the equality of human beings. All who have faith in Jainism are brothers without any class distinctions.

2. With reference to the contributions of Jainism, describe the following :

(a) Its contribution in the social and religious field.

(b) Its contribution in the cultural field.

Ans. (a) **Social Field:** In the social field, Jainism did a meritorious job by removing the evil of the Varna system or the Caste system. The Jains believed in the equality of men. Beside, their faith in non-violence and doing good to others prompted them with the goal of service to all.

**Religious Field:** In the religious sphere, Jainism worked to remove several evils of Hinduism. It saved the people from the cumbersome *Yajnas* and simplified the complex ideas. It also preached against animal sacrifice. In this way, Hinduism was relieved of several obnoxious influences.

(b) **Cultural Life:** The Jains made ample use of art and architecture for the propagation of their religion and contributed to the development of architecture, sculpture and art. They built stupas, monasteries and temples to perpetuate the memory of their saints and sages. They also decorated their buildings with stone railings, beautiful gateways, stone umbrellas and finely carved pillars. They built beautiful temples and images at their sacred places like the **Parasnath Hill, Pawapuri (Bihar), Rajgriha, Girnar and Mount Abu**. The **Hathi Gumph** or Cave in Orissa, the **Indra Sabha Cave at Ellora** and the **Lion Cave in Udyagiri** are the fine specimens of the Jain art. The Jain artists also excelled in the field of making huge images and sculptures. An important Jain pilgrimage site, the colossal statue of Gomateswara which is situated at Sharavan Belgola in Karnataka is known for its huge height (about 70 feet.) and grandeur. Jainism made a great contribution to the literary side also. Their chief works called the **Angas**, are written in Prakrit. They also wrote some other texts in *Apbhramsha*. But gradually, they also took to Sanskrit and wrote legends and fables, etc., and several valuable books on grammar and poetics which contributed richly to the development of the Sanskrit language.



**3. With reference to the life and teachings of Gautam Buddha, explain the following :**

- (a) How did Gautam Buddha get enlightenment?
- (b) Explain main teachings or principles of Buddhism.

**Ans. (a)** Once, after seeing an old man, a sick man, a corpse and an ascetic, he realised the true nature of the world. He left his home and kingdom at the age of 29 and went in search of truth. This event is known as the 'Great Renunciation'.

For two years, he became the disciple of a Brahman and studied the Vedas and Shastras. But this did not bring him peace. Then he practised severe austerity and penance as an ascetic and reduced himself to a mere skeleton. This also did not bring him any satisfaction. Then he went to Gaya and sat there under a pipal tree and absorbed himself in deep thought. At last, one night, the true light dawned on him and he became the Buddha or the 'Enlightened One' at the age of 35.

**(b) Teachings of The Buddha or Main Doctrines of Buddhism** The following were the main teachings of the Buddha in main doctrines of Buddhism:

**(i) Four Noble Truths and Eight-fold Path:** The Four Noble Truths preached by the Buddha were.

- This world is full of sorrows.
- Desires are the main cause of these sorrows.
- One can get rid of these sorrows by killing desires.
- The desires can be killed only by following the Eight-fold Path, which consisted of the following principles:

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| (i) Right Belief   | (ii) Right Thought |
| (iii) Right Speech | (iv) Right Action  |
| (v) Right Living   | (vi) Right Effort  |

(vii) Right Recollection (viii) Right Meditation This path is also called the 'Middle Path' as the Buddha on the one hand condemned the life of pleasure as practised by the Brahman priests while on the other hand he opposed the life of severe penance as preached by the Jains. Hence, he preached a middle path of righteous living.

**(ii) Non-Violence:** The Buddha laid great stress on non-violence towards all living beings. He preached love for all living beings. He did not extend his concept of non-violence to inanimate objects like plants and stones.

**(iii) Silence over the Existence of God:** Buddha was silent about the existence of God, though he never formally denied it. Buddha held that the whole universe was controlled by 'Dharma', a universal law. Unlike Mahavira, he did not deny the existence of God.

**(iv) Non-Faith in Yajnas, Sacrifices and Rituals:** The Buddha had no faith in Yajnas and animal-sacrifices and in the supremacy of the Vedas or the Brahmins. He regarded it mere ostentation, which was useless for the purpose of seeking salvation.

**(v) No Faith in the Caste System:** The Buddha had no faith in caste-distinctions and opposed the caste-system vehemently. He believed that men should be distinguished on the basis of their qualities and not caste.

**(vi) Nirvana:** According to the Buddha, the chief aim of man's life was to lead a noble life and to attain *Nirvana* or ultimate salvation. A person irrespective of his caste can attain salvation by following the righteous path where the soul becomes free from the eternal cycle of life and death.

**(vii) The Karma Theory:** The Buddha believed in the theory of *Karma* and Rebirth. He said that it was the eternal law that a man reaps the fruits of his deeds.

**(viii) Stress on Righteous Conduct:** The Buddha stressed the importance of moral living. He paid more attention to the purity of thought, word and deed.

**4. With reference to the contribution of Buddhism, explain the following :**

- (a) Its contribution in the literary field.
- (b) Its influence in the religious field.
- (c) Its influence in the architectural field.

**Ans. (a) Impact of Buddhism on Literature:** In the field of literature, Buddhism made valuable contributions.

Some of the important literature were *Tripitakas* and the *Jatakas*.



**The Tripitakas:** The most important religious literature of the Buddhists is called the *Tripitakas*. They were written in Pali, a couple of centuries after the Buddha. They comprise three books, namely, the *Vinaya Pitaka*, the *Sutta Pitaka* and the *Abhidhamma Pitaka*. The first contains the rules and regulations for the daily living of the monks and nuns. The second contains the Buddhist teachings, moral principles and the sayings of the Buddha. The *Abhidhamma Pitaka* is an interpretation of philosophical doctrines contained in the *Sutta Pitaka*. **The Jatakas:** The *Jatakas* form an important part of the Buddhist literature. They deal with the birth stories of the Buddha in his previous lives. There are about 550 Jataka tales which were popular in the 6th or 5th century B.C. They were written in Pali. These stories were dubbed with moral lessons and ethical teachings. They form the subjects of sculpture in the railings of the famous *Stupas*. The *Jatakas* throw much light on the common life of the people, their economic conditions, social manners and customs of those times.

### (b) Impact of Buddhism on Religion

Buddhism had a great impact on religion.

- (i) **Hinduism was Purified:** The importance of the 'Yajna' and 'Havana' had become so expensive that ordinary members of society were unable to perform them. Animal sacrifice was gaining ground day by day. However, Hinduism was purified by the preaching of Buddhism and in consequence of their laying more emphasis on the principle of Ahimsa. Gradually other evils in Hinduism were removed and its former purity was restored to a great extent.
  - (ii) **Sculpture :** But slowly people began to make the stone images of the Buddha raising him to the position of a god. The Hindus too imitated them and began to make idols of their gods and goddesses. Several historians affirm that the practice of making images and idol-worship did not exist in India previous to the rise of Buddhism.
  - (iii) **Use of Temples:** According to the historians, the Hindus used to worship their gods in open air before Buddhism came into being. But gradually when the followers of Buddhism worshipped him as a God, they turned their 'mathas' (Viharas) into temples. Copying their example, Hindus too began to build their temples.
  - (iv) **The Birth of Bhakti Cult:** According to Dr. V.A. Smith, for a long time discussions and disputes continued between Hinduism and Buddhism. This resulted in the rise of different sects of the Bhakti cult.
- (c) **Impact of Buddhism on Architecture:** Buddhism had a great impact on different fields of art, especially the art of architecture. The teachings of Buddhism led various Indian rulers like Ashoka, Kanishka and Harshavardhana to build innumerable monasteries, viharas and stupas. A large number of pillars and edicts inscribed on pillars were erected by Ashoka in different parts of the country to spread the message of the Lord (Buddha). Such as in Delhi, Allahabad, Lauriya-Arera (Bihar), Girnar (Gujarat), Rampurva (Madhya Pradesh), Bairat (Rajasthan), etc., Kalsi (Uttar Pradesh) and even in some Pakistan areas like Mansera, Shahbazgarhi. A large number of cave-temples were constructed in different parts of India for giving permanent abodes to the Buddhist and Jain monks. Big *stupas* of stone were also raised over the relics of the Buddha and the Bodhisattvas. Monasteries were actually caves carved out of solid rocks. The rock-cut-caves consisted of two parts—*Chaitya* or a hall for a worship and a *Vihara* or monastery. *Chaityas* were used as service halls or meeting halls while *Viharas* served as place of residence for monks. Many rock-cut cave temples have been found at Nasik, Karle, Ajanta, Ellora, Aurangabad and Kanheri and at many other places on the Western Ghats. The first example of cave temples is that of the *Chaitya Hall*, Karle, which was made in the beginning of the Christian era in the Satavahana period. The Ajanta and Ellora caves, situated near Aurangabad in Maharashtra, present the best examples of rock-cut architecture, sculpture and paintings. There are thirty caves at Ajanta and thirty-four caves at Ellora. Some of them are single-storeyed. At Sanchi, a place about 60 kilometres away from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, there stand three *Stupas*. The big one, known as the Sanchi Stupa, was built by Ashoka in the 3rd century B.C. This Stupa is said to contain the relics of the Buddha and that is why it is regarded so sacred by the Buddhists.