

QUESTION BANK

VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. *Which two religions rose to prominence in the 6th century BCE?*

Ans. Buddhism and Jainism.

2. *What is known about the political background in times of Lord Buddha?*

Ans. There were sixteen mahajanapadas or chief territorial states. Of these some were Monarchies and others were Republics.

3. *What are Triratnas of Jainism?*

Ans. Triratnas are Three Jewels of Jainism namely right faith, right knowledge and right conduct.

4. *What are the five vows for the Jains?*

Ans. (i) To practise chastity (ii) Not to injure or kill any living thing (iii) Not to lie (iv) Not to possess property (v) Not to steal.

5. *Who are the Digambaras?*
 Ans. Digambaras are members of the Jain sect who lead an austere and hard life and even give up wearing clothes.
6. *Who are the Shvetambaras?*
 Ans. Shvetambaras are members of the second Jain Sect who dress in white, rule out strict austerity and life of self-mortification.
7. *List two contributions of Jainism.*
 Ans. (i) Removed evils of Vedic religion.
 (ii) Preached love and preservation of all living things (animals and humans) by stopping animal sacrifices.
8. *Why did Jainism not become very popular?*
 Ans. (i) Too many austerities, fasts and penance.
 (ii) Comparative lack of royal patronage.
 (iii) No missionary zeal to spread the religion.
 (iv) Extreme emphasis on ahimsa.
9. *Who was Siddhodhana?*
 Ans. Siddhodhana was the chief of the Sakya clan of Kapilavastu. He was Prince Siddhartha's (later Lord Buddha) father.
10. *What is the 'Great Renunciation'?*
 Ans. The 'Great Renunciation' is a term used to indicate the event when Prince Siddhartha left his house and kingdom and went off in search of truth.
11. *What is the meaning of 'Buddha'?*
 Ans. The Enlightened One.
12. *What is Dharma Chakra Pravartana?*
 Ans. Dharma Chakra Pravartana means 'Turning of the Wheel of Law'. It is a term used to denote the first sermon delivered by Lord Buddha at the Deer Park in Sarnath.
13. *What are the four noble truths preached by Lord Buddha?*
 Ans. (i) This world is full of sorrows.
 (ii) Desires cause sorrow.
 (iii) Killing desires would kill sorrows.
 (iv) Desires can be killed by following the Eight-fold Path.
14. *Which is the Eight-fold Path of Buddhism?*
 Ans. (i) Right Belief (ii) Right Thought (iii) Right Speech (iv) Right Action
 (v) Right Living (vi) Right Effort (vii) Right Recollection (viii) Right Meditation.
15. *What is Nirvana?*
 Ans. Nirvana means salvation or ultimate bliss.
16. *What is the Karma Theory?*
 Ans. Karma means reaping the fruits of one's deeds. Buddha firmly believed in Karma and Rebirth.
17. *What are Hinayana and Mahayana?*
 Ans. They were the two sects of Buddhism.
18. *Where did the Mahayana sect spread?*
 Ans. The Mahayana sect of Buddhism spread in north-western India, China, Japan and Central Asia.
19. *List any two influence of Buddhism on social life.*
 Ans. (i) Caste system was relegated and equality was emphasised upon.
 (ii) Doctrine of ahimsa was introduced.

STRUCTURED TYPE QUESTIONS

1. (a) *When did Jainism and Buddhism originate?*
 (b) *Write two similarities between Jainism and Buddhism.*
 (c) *Describe two similarities between Jainism and Hinduism.*
 (d) *Mention any two differences between Jainism and Buddhism and mention the two main sects of Jainism.*
 Ans. (a) Jainism and Buddhism both originated in the 6th century BCE.

- (b) (i) Jainism and Buddhism both originated in the 6th century BCE.
 - (ii) Both originated in the Ganga Valley.
 - (iii) Both were reactions to the Brahminical religion.
 - (iv) The founders of both belonged to Kshatriya families.
 - (v) They belonged to democratic tribes. Mahavir belonged to the Lichchavi tribe and Buddha to the Sakya tribe.
 - (c) Jainism and Hinduism both believe in rebirth and life after death. Secondly, both believe in the theory of Karma.
 - (d) While Jainism prescribed self-negation for its followers. Buddhism preached a normal life without any excessive pain to the body. Secondly, Buddhism made a clear-cut difference between monks and lay followers and prescribed separate rules, duties, etc., for them. Jainism failed to make any clear cut distinction in this regard.
- The Jain religion was split into two sects after Mahavir's death. Those who were the orthodox followers of Mahavir and remained naked are called Digambaras while those who wore white clothes did not believe in severe austerity and life of self-mortification are called Shvetambaras.

2. (a) *What is the root and meaning of the word Jain?*
 (b) *Who was Mahavir?*
 (c) *What is the meaning of Tirthankar?*

Ans. (a) The word Jain is derived from the root 'Jina' meaning who has conquered his senses.
 (b) According to historians, Mahavir (original name, Vardhaman) was the real founder of Jainism
 (c) According to the Jain tradition, their religion was propagated and spread by 24 religious leaders. They are called Tirthankars. The Jains believe in 24 Tirthankars.

3. (a) *Who was the first Tirthankar?*
 (b) *Who were the last two Tirthankars?*
 (c) *When was Mahavir born and where?*
 (d) *Describe any two main causes of the limited spread of Jainism.*

Ans. (a) According to the Jain tradition, Rishabha Dev was their first Tirthankar.
 (b) Parshvanath was the 23rd, and Vardhaman Mahavir was the 24th, the last of the Tirthankars.
 (c) Mahavir was born in 540 BCE, at Kundagrama near Vaishali.
 (d) Jainism laid too much emphasis on hard penance and self-negation. Secondly, its monks lacked the missionary zeal which the Buddhist monks possessed. Thirdly, Jainism also turned a vow like Ahimsa into a non-practicable proposition. Lastly, the Jain religion did not get the same royal patronage as was received by Buddhism. Because of these causes the Jain religion has only a limited spread and could not cross India's border.

4. (a) *When did Mahavir attain enlightenment (Kevalyanana)?*
 (b) *When and where did Mahavir attain Nirvana?*
 (c) *What are the Triratnas?*
 (d) *Discuss the five vows in Jainism and the main teachings of Jainism.*

Ans. (a) Mahavir attained enlightenment at the age of 42, after 12 years of wandering life full of hardships after he left home.
 (b) Mahavir attained Nirvana in 468 BCE, at the age of 72, at Pava near Rajagriha in Bihar.
 (c) The Jains believe that right faith, right knowledge and right conduct are necessary for attaining salvation. These are called the Triratnas or the three jewels.
 (d) A Jain has to take five vows. They are — not to injure life, not to tell a lie, not to steal, not to have any property, and to practice chastity. These are called the Five Vows.
 To practice Ahimsa (non-violence), not to believe in caste inequality, not to have faith in Yajnas and other rituals, and attempt to attain salvation (freedom from the cycle of birth and death), next life and the Karma theory, hard penance and self-sacrifice, and the worship of the twenty-four Tirthankaras — are the main teachings of Jainism.

5. (a) *What is the root and meaning of the word 'Buddha'?*
 (b) *Who was the founder of Buddhism?*
 (c) *What was the Buddha's original name? By what other names is he known?*
 (d) *What are the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism?*

- Ans. (a) The word Buddha is derived from the root 'Bodh'. This means one who has acquired knowledge or enlightenment.
- (b) The Buddhist religion was founded by Gautam Buddha. He was the son of Suddhodhana, the chief of Sakya clan of Kapilavastu.
- (c) The Buddha's original (childhood) name was Siddhartha. He is also known as Talhajaj, Shakya Muni.
- (d) Buddhism preached the Four Noble Truths (Arya Satya). They are :
- The world is full of sorrows,
 - These sorrows are caused by desires,
 - Sorrows can be removed by overcoming desires, and
 - One can overcome the desires by following the Eight-fold Path preached by Gautam Buddha.

6. (a) *When and where was Gautam Buddha born?*
- (b) *When did Siddhartha leave home and when did he attain enlightenment?*
- (c) *When did the Buddha deliver his first sermon? What is this event called?*
- (d) *Mention any two important features of Mahayana Buddhism.*

- Ans. (a) Gautam was born in 563 BCE in the Lumbini forest near Kapilvastu, South Nepal.
- (b) Siddhartha left home at the age of 29 and attained enlightenment at the age of 35, at Bodh Gaya in Bihar. The event of his leaving home is called The Great Renunciation.
- (c) Buddha delivered his first sermon, at the Deer Park, Sarnath, near Banaras. This event is called Dharma Chakra Pravartana or the "Turning of the Wheel of Law."
- (d) The reformed Buddhism was called Mahayana. Here the idols of Buddha and statues of Bodhisattvas were worshipped.

7. (a) *When and where did the Buddha attain Mahaparinirvana?*
- (b) *Into which sects was Buddhism divided? When did it occur?*
- (c) *What are the main differences between Hinayana and Mahayana? Mention any two.*

- Ans. (a) Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana (death) in 483 BCE, at the age of 80, at Kushinagar, 51 km from Gorakhpur. This place was then the capital of democratic Malla tribe.
- (b) Later Buddhism divided into two sects — Hinayana (the Lesser Vehicle) and the Mahayana (the Great Vehicle). This split occurred during the reign of Kanishka.
- (c) After division of Buddhism into two sects, the reformed Buddhism was known as Mahayana (the Greater Vehicle), while the Orthodox Buddhism was called the Hinayana (the Lesser Vehicle). Hinayana regarded Buddha as a human being and as a Guru, but Mahayana worshipped him as a God. The latter also worshipped the Bodhisattvas. Secondly, Hinayana stressed reason and self-effort and condemned idol-worship, while Mahayana laid stress on faiths, rituals, worshipping the idols of Buddha and Bodhisattvas.

8. (a) *What do you mean by Sangha?*
- (b) *What are the Tripitakas?*
- (c) *Who are the Bodhisattvas?*
- (d) *Mention the teachings of Buddhism. Why are they known as the Middle Path?*

- Ans. (a) Buddha organised his disciple monks into an Order which was called Sangha. There existed separate Sanghas for monks and nuns, each with well-defined rules. The Sangha was given an equal status with Buddha and his teachings (Dharma).
- (b) After Buddha, all his teachings were collected in three books called Tripitakas or Three Baskets. They are the Vinaya Pitaka (rules and regulations for the Sangha), Sutta Pitaka (moral teachings of Buddha) and Abhidharma Pitaka (interpretation of philosophical doctrines contained in the Sutta Pitaka).
- (c) There are 550 Jataka tales composed by the Mahayana Buddhists. These are moral stories related to the Buddha's previous births. In each of those previous births, Gautam Buddha was called Bodhisattva. The Hinayana sect does not worship the Bodhisattvas but the Mahayana sect does.
- (d) To practice Ahimsa (non-violence), not to believe in caste inequality, not to have faith in Yajnas and other rituals, belief in the Karma theory, stress on righteous conduct, and attempt to attain salvation (freedom from the cycle of birth and death) are the main teachings of Jainism. Contrary to Hinduism of his days, Buddhism did not approve of over-indulgence and preached a simple life, in which one could attain salvation through his own conduct, without the help of costly yajnas, priests, etc. At the same time, Buddha did not lay stress on hard penance and self-negation as Mahavir did. That is why Buddhism is known as the Middle Path (Madhya Marg).

9. (a) *What is meant by Nirvana?*
 (b) *In Buddhism, what is the concept of non-violence?*
 (c) *In context of Jainism discuss :*
 (i) *Its contribution in religious field.*
 (ii) *Its contribution to vernacular literature.*

- Ans.** (a) According to Buddha Nirvana is ultimate salvation which must be the only aim a person wants to achieve. A man must also lead a decent and noble life following the path of virtue. In Buddhism one is said to have achieved nirvana only when the soul becomes free from the eternal cycle of life and death. Buddha believed that anyone can achieve nirvana be it a Brahmana or a Sudra. All one had to do to get this aim was to follow the noble path.
- (b) Buddha believed in non-violence. He directed everyone to be kind to all living beings. He did not want anyone to hurt or kill a living being. He was not in favour of teasing animals but preached love for all living beings. Like Mahavira, Buddha's preaching of non-violence did not extend to stones or plants and other inanimate objects.
- (c) (i) *In the religious field, Jainism attacked several evils of Brahminical religion and thus contributed to their disappearance. The society as a whole was therefore reformed. The tradition of animal sacrifice did not disappear but it became quite weak. People came to believe that a person can attain salvation not through costly and obnoxious yajnas but through his own good conduct.*
- (ii) *Mahavir delivered his sermons in Prakrit language which was at that time one of the languages which people spoke and understood. The Angas (chief works of Jainism) were also written in this language which was thus enriched. Later some works were written in Apabhramsha also. Still later, Jain monks began to write in Sanskrit in which they wrote a number of books on philosophy, grammar, poetics, and other subjects. All this contributed to the development of the Sanskrit language as well.*

10. *In context of Buddhism discuss any five causes of the :*
 (a) *Rise and growth of Buddhism.*
 (b) *Decline of Buddhism.*

- Ans.** (a) The main causes of the rise and growth of Buddhism are given below :
- (i) Buddhism came at a time when the people were fed up with useless rituals, dogmas, caste restrictions, animal sacrifices, etc. So they enthusiastically responded to Buddhism with its simple teachings, as an alternative.
- (ii) The magnetic personality of Buddha and his royal descent also helped in the spread of Buddhism.
- (iii) Buddha's simple teachings, uttered not in Sanskrit but in Pali which was the language people spoke, contributed to the fast growth of Buddhism.
- (iv) Buddha laid emphasis on good conduct only for Nirvana. That means his religion was a simple and an inexpensive one appealed to the people.
- (v) Buddha condemned caste inequalities and the theory of superiority by birth. Hence a large number of so called low caste people converted to Buddhism.
- (b) After some centuries of its birth, Buddhism began to decline in its country of origin though it continued to grow abroad. The main causes of this decline are as below :
- (i) Faced with the Buddhist challenge, Brahmanical religion underwent a reform and re-attracted many people. This gave a setback to Buddhism.
- (ii) On the other hand, Buddhist Sanghas and monks became corrupt. Thus, they alienated the people who began to abandon Buddhism.
- (iii) The repeated splits of Buddhism into many sects, mainly Mahayana and Hinayana, also robbed Buddhism of its vitality. This contributed to its decline.
- (iv) Buddha himself was opposed to idol-worship. But the Hindus adopted Buddha as one of the incarnations of Vishnu and began worshipping his idols. As a result, Mahayana Buddhism was incorporated into Hinduism.
- (v) The Buddhists later adopted many tenets of Vedic philosophy, Tantrism, as well as Sanskrit language instead of Pali. Therefore, gradually they cut themselves off from the people.

