

Short-Answer Questions

1. Define the word 'Renaissance'.

Ans. The word Renaissance means 'rebirth' or the revival of the study of the Greek and the Roman classics. It stood for an intellectual, literary, artistic and scientific movement which widened the mental horizon of man.

2. Name any two original thinkers who are called forerunners of Renaissance.

Ans. Abelard and Roger Bacon

3. How did the decline of feudalism help the spirit of Renaissance?

Ans. The society had a graded organisation in feudalism in which there was hardly any chance for social mobility and progress. It was also opposed to freedom and equality of rights. The decline of feudalism gave a great relief to the peasants, craftsmen and traders and developed in them a spirit of free thinking. They developed a habit of free and fearless thinking which greatly helped the spirit of Renaissance.

4. In which way did the printing press help the spirit of Renaissance?

Ans. Printing press helped in publishing books in large numbers. Now books reached the common people and they went a long way in spreading knowledge. The people now began to understand religion in its real sense. Increase in education also gave a great impetus to the literary activity of the Renaissance and widened the mental horizon of the people.

5. How did the victory of the Turks over Constantinople play a part in the rise of Renaissance?

Ans. Constantinople fell into the hands of the Turks in 1453 AD. Many Greek writers were forced to shift to Rome

with their manuscripts. Rome then became the centre of the Greek Culture. They began to spread Greek knowledge and culture and in this way revived the interest of the people in the study of Greek philosophy, Science, art and literature. The revival of the learning of Greek classics paved the way for the Renaissance.

6. Who painted the world famous painting Mona Lisa?

Ans. Leonardo da Vinci

7. Write the names of any three writers of the Renaissance period.

Ans. Machiavelli, Dante and Thomas More.

8. Write the names of two painters of the Renaissance period and one each of their paintings.

Ans. Leonardo da Vinci is known for his painting Mona Lisa. Raphael is known for his painting Sistine Madonna.

9. Name the two sculptors of the Renaissance period and also mention one each of their creations.

Ans. Lorenzo Ghiberti was a famous sculptor who made the doors of Baptistry. Donatello was another famous sculptor who made the statue of St. George in Florence.

10. Give the names of two Renaissance architects.

Ans. Manetti and Brunelleschi

11. Name the two famous musicians of the Renaissance period.

Ans. Giovanni Gabrieli and Adrian Willaert

12. How did Renaissance lead to geographical explorations? Give only one cause.

Ans. The navigators of Portugal and Spain played an important part in the geographical explorations. When Constantinople fell into the hands of the Turks in 1453 AD and they shut down the trade routes between the west and the East, the European traders and navigators felt the need of discovering new sea routes and hence geographical explorations were encouraged.

13. Name any two sailors of the Renaissance period and one each of their discoveries.

Ans. Bartholomew Diaz discovered the Cape of Good Hope at the southern-most point of Africa. Vasco-da-Gama discovered India.

14. Which European Sailor discovered America and in which year?

Ans. Columbus discovered America in 1492 AD.

15. Which European sailor discovered India and in which year?

Ans. Vasco-da-Gama discovered India in 1498 AD.

16. Give two effects of the geographical discoveries.

Ans. The geographical discoveries brought the people of Western Europe into direct contact with the people of Asia and thus greatly broadened their out look and forced them to give up their blind faith.

17. Which movement was started to reform the religion as a result of the Renaissance?

Ans. Protestant movement.

Structured Essay-Type Questions

1. With reference to the causes of Renaissance, answer the following :

- (a) Contribution of original thinkers in bringing the Renaissance spirit.
- (b) Invention of the printing press
- (c) Development of science
- (d) Victory of the Turks over Constantinople.

Ans. (a) Contribution of Original Thinkers: Original thinkers like Abelard, Roger Bacon, Thomas Aquinas were the forerunners of the Renaissance. In the medieval age the Church dominated the human mind and activities and all the provinces of life. It was difficult to question its authority. But the original

thinkers revolutionised thought and laid a great stress on the spirit of enquiry, reasoning, independent thinking and scientific investigation. The spirit of enquiry, original and free thinking gave great impetus to the Renaissance movement.

- (b) **Invention of the Printing Press:** The things began to change with the invention of the printing press. The first printing press was set up in Germany in 1465 A.D. by Gutenberg. Later on Caxton introduced it in England in 1476 A.D. Printing presses were also set up in Italy and Hungary. They helped in publishing books in large numbers. Now books reached the common people and they went a long way in spreading knowledge. The people now began to understand religion in its real sense. Increase in education also gave a great impetus to the literary activity of the Renaissance and widened the mental horizon of the people.
- (c) **Spirit of Enquiry:** Development of science created the spirit of enquiry and encouraged original thinking on scientific lines. It gave a severe blow to old beliefs, blind faith, dogmatic attitude and superiority of the Church. Roger Bacon contemplated the use of horseless carriages and flying machines. Leonard placed before the people his new scientific ideas and discoveries fearlessly. Copernicus proved that the earth moves round the sun. Galileo invented the telescope. These inventions broadened the mental outlook of the people and put an end to old beliefs and traditions.
- (d) **Capture of Constantinople by the Turks:** Constantinople was the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire and was a great centre of Greek and Roman cultures. It contained the valuable manuscripts of the Greek and Roman writers. But Constantinople fell into the hands of the Turks in 1453 A.D. Many Greek writers were thus

forced to shift to Rome with their manuscripts. Rome then became the centre of the Greek culture. They began to spread Greek knowledge and culture and in this way revived the interest of the people in the study of Greek philosophy, science, art and literature. The revival of the learning of Greek classics paved the way for the Renaissance.

2. With reference to the impact of Renaissance on Art, describe the following :

- (a) Progress painting
- (b) Progress sculpture
- (c) Progress architecture
- (d) Progress in music.

Ans. (a) Art of Painting: The figures were true to life and the painters attached great importance to the beauty of human body. Paintings known as frescoes were painted on plaster walls. Oil-painting was also invented. The Italian painters **Cimaleue** and **Giotto** paved the way for a new school. They combined homely incidents with religious themes. Their paintings reflected a sense of humour and love for realism. **Leonardo da Vinci** was a versatile genius of Florence (in Italy). He was a painter, sculptor, architect, engineer and a scientist. His **Mona Lisa, The Last Supper, The Virgin and the Child** are the masterpieces of art. They reveal his mastery in colour, shade, light and the background. **Michael Angelo** was another genius of many talents. He was a painter, sculptor, architect and poet. He was famous for his remarkable frescoes on the ceiling of Sistine Chapel. His *Last Judgement* is his masterpiece of art. **Raphael** was also a renowned painter, poet, sculptor and architect. *Sistine Madonna* was his masterpiece in painting. **Titian** of Venice excelled in oil painting and had great mastery over light, shade

and colouring. Besides these Italian painters **Allerecht Durer** and **Holbein** of Germany, **Velasquez**, **Murillo** and **El Greco** of Spain, **Rubbens** and **Van** of Holland were the magnificent painters of the Renaissance era.

- (b) **Art of Sculpture:** The Renaissance sculptors studied the human body and knew how the muscles and joints worked so that they could make their figure more life-like. A famous sculptor named **Lorenzo Ghiberti** made the doors of Baptistry of Florence. Michael Angelo was of the view that they were fit to be the doors of the paradise. The statue of *St. George* in Florence, the statues of *St. Mark* in Venice and Group of *Young Angels* reveal the artistic skill of the sculptor **Donatello**. These masterpieces are natural and life-like. The huge statues of *David* in Florence, statues of *Moses* and *Pieta* chiselled out by **Michael Angelo** are really praiseworthy. The Italian sculptors were invited to England, France and Spain and they spread the Renaissance over the whole of the Western Europe.
- (c) **Renaissance in Architecture:** The architects of Italy discarded the Gothic style and took inspiration from the classical architecture of the Greeks and Romans. **Alberti**, **Manetti**, **Brunelleschi** and **Michael Angelo** were the famous Renaissance architects. Great churches like St. Peters at Rome, St. Paul at London, St. Mark at Venice are examples of the new type. The dome was used but it was made taller and more graceful than the Roman dome. Greek porches and pillars were also used. Angelo designed the dome of the Church of St. Peter. The Pitti Palace in Florence, the Farnese Palace in Rome are the best examples of the Renaissance secular architecture.
- (d) **Renaissance in Music:** Music flourished along with other arts but it was made free from classical influence. Old and crude instruments were discarded

and Violin and Piano became popular. Though music was still dominated by religion, yet great stress was laid on harmony and sweetness. **Palestrina** was the leading musician of the Roman School and his *Book of Masses* which was finally composed in 1554 A.D. has been used ever since. **Giovanni Gabrieli** and **Adrian Willaert** were the famous musicians of the School of Venice.

3. With reference to the impact of Renaissance on Science, answer the following :

- (a) Progress in the field of astronomy.
- (b) Progress in the field of physics.
- (c) Progress in the field of chemistry and medicine.

Ans. (a) Astronomy: According to Ptolemy's system the sun, the moon and other stars moved round the earth. But a scientist of Poland named **Copernicus** (1473–1543 A.D.) proved that the earth was round and the earth, the moon and the other stars moved round the sun in a circle. Later on a German scientist **John Kepler** (1571–1630 A.D.) proved that the earth and other planets move round the sun not in a circle but in elliptical orbits. Italian scientist, **Galileo** (1564–1642 A.D.) invented telescope. **Sir Issac Newton** (1642–1727 A.D.) discovered the Law of Gravitation.

(b) **Physics: Gilbert** (1540–1603 A.D.) carried on experiments concerning the properties of magnet and paved the way for the study of electricity. **Stevin** (1548–1620 A.D.) discovered the law of parallelogram of forces. **Galileo** was not only an astronomer but also a great physicist. Aristotle believed that heavier bodies fall at a rapid speed than the lighter bodies. Galileo challenged this theory and successfully proved that the speed of falling bodies depends upon distance and not on weight. He also invented thermometer and

hydrostatic balance and laid the foundation of modern dynamics.

- (c) **Chemistry and Medicine:** **Vesalius** (1514–1564 A.D.) and **Harvey** (1576–1657 A.D.) laid the foundation of modern anatomy. Vesalius gave a correct picture of human body while Harvey proved that the functioning of human body depends on the circulation of blood. **Paracelsus** (1493–1541 A.D.) proved a close connection between medicine and chemistry and used chemicals for medicinal purposes. **Cordus** (1515–1544 A.D.) prepared ether from alcohol and sulphuric acid. **Helmontt** (1577–1644 A.D.) discovered carbon dioxide.

4. With reference to geographical explorations, how did the following sailors help in this direction ?

- (a) Vasco-da-Gama (b) Columbus (c) Magellan.

Ans. (a) Vasco-da-Gama discovered India.

- (b) Columbus discovered America in 1492 AD.

- (c) In 1519, Magellan a Portuguese sailor, started a long journey from Spain. He kept on sailing towards the west. After a tough journey of three years the ships returned to the place in Spain from where he had started. This meant that he had sailed around the Earth. This journey showed that the Earth had no edges. It is round like a ball.