

7

India's Cultural Roots

A. Multiple Choice Questions.

- How many Vedas are there?
a. Three b. Five c. Four d. Six
- Which ancient civilization is mentioned as part of India's cultural roots in this chapter?
a. Sindhu-Sarasvatī b. Harappan c. Both a & b d. None of these
- In what language were the Vedic hymns composed?
a. Gujarati b. Sanskrit c. Hindi d. English
- Which value is considered especially important in Vedic culture?
a. Truth b. Wealth c. Strength d. Fame
- What does the famous Vedic statement "ekam sat viprā bahudhā vadanti" mean?
a. Everyone is equal b. Only one God exists
c. The universe is infinite d. Truth is one, but sages give it many names
- Which deity is associated with fire in Vedic rituals?
a. Indra b. Agni c. Varuna d. Mitra
- _____ was born in Lumbini.
a. Chhandogya Upanishad b. Siddhartha Gautama
c. Lord Mahavir d. None of these
- Where did Siddhartha Gautama attain enlightenment?
a. Bodh Gaya b. Sarnath c. Lumbini d. Kashi
- Prince Vardhamana was born into a royal family in the early _____ century B.C.E.
a. 5th century b. 6th century c. 7th century d. 8th century
- In which state of India do several tribes worship Donyipolo?
a. Himachal Pradesh b. Uttar Pradesh c. Bihar d. Arunachal Pradesh

B. Fill in the Blanks.

Ṛitam	Upanishads	Thirty janas	Charvaka	Unique identity
Brahman	Indus Valley	Atman	Rig Veda	Nachiketa

- The _____ Civilization is often seen as a cornerstone of Indian culture.
- Early schools that helped shape India's _____.
- The seers and deities worked together to maintain ṛitam.

4. Experts have proposed dates ranging from the 5th to the 2nd millennium BCE for the composition of the _____.
5. The R̥ig Veda lists over _____.
6. The _____ introduced concepts such as rebirth and karma.
7. Uddalaka tested Shvetaketu with questions on the nature of _____.
8. _____ asked Yama about what happens after the death of the body.
9. The concept of _____ refers to the divine essence present in every being.
10. The _____ school believed in only the material world and did not believe in life after death.

C. State true or false.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. The Vedas were primarily written texts. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The R̥ig Veda is the most ancient of the four Vedas. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The early rishis believed in many separate gods and goddesses. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The Vedas provide detailed information about the governance of these janas. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The Vedic deity associated with fire is Agni. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The Buddha's teachings had no lasting impact on India or Asia. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Jainism and Buddhism emerged at the same time. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The Buddhist and Jain schools had no similarities. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. The concept of karma is shared by Buddhism, Jainism, and Vedic thought. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. In both Buddhism and Jainism, the term 'ahimsa' means Non-violence. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

D. Answer the following questions. (in short)

1. What is the Sapta Sindhava region?
 Ans. _____

2. What did the Vedas promote in society?
 Ans. _____

3. What is the goal of Yoga?
 Ans. _____

4. What was the final message Uddalaka conveyed to Shvetaketu?
 Ans. _____

5. What is the Sangha?

Ans. _____

6. What is the significance of aparigraha in Jainism?

Ans. _____

7. How did monks and nuns spread their teachings?

Ans. _____

8. How are folk traditions different from tribal traditions?

Ans. _____

9. How do some tribes view nature?

Ans. _____

10. What is a similarity between some tribal religions and Hinduism?

Ans. _____

E. Give reason.

1. Why is it difficult to determine the exact date of the Rig Veda's composition?

Ans. _____

2. Why did UNESCO recognize Vedic chanting as a "masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity" in 2008?

Ans. _____

3. Why did Siddhartha Gautama leave his palace life?

Ans. _____

4. Why do you think Armgha's mother wanted her to know the story of the Buddha?

Ans. _____

F. Give One Word Answer.

- 1. The rishi Who wrote Vedas. - _____
- 2. The universe as an ordered and harmonious system. - _____
- 3. Vedic culture developed many rituals called - _____

4. A certain view or understanding of the world, its origin, or its workings. - _____
5. A king who announced a prize for the winner of a philosophical debate. - _____
6. The founder of Buddhism. - _____
7. The founder of Jainism. - _____
8. A life that begins after death. - _____
9. Who founded the Sangha, a community of bhikshus? - _____
10. Someone who uses traditional practices to relieve or heal diseases. - _____

G. Match the following.

Column A	Column B	Ans.
1. Veda	i. Truth and order	1. ____
2. Vedic hymns	ii. An extraordinarily skilled burglar	2. ____
3. Ritam	iii. Composed by rishis and rishikas	3. ____
4. Brahman	iv. A combined form of the Sun and the Moon	4. ____
5. Rohineya	v. Knowledge	5. ____
6. Rock-cut caves	vi. Banyan seed and clay	6. ____
7. Donyipolo	vii. Monks and nuns live	7. ____

H. Answer the questions in words.

1. Name the four Vedas.

2. Name some professions mentioned in the Vedic texts.

3. Name the some common concepts shared by the Vedic, Buddhist, and Jain schools.

4. Name two tribal deity temple.

5. Name two holy books of Hindu.

I. Give answers the following question in brief.

1. Write short notes on India’s culture.
Ans. _____

2. What is the contribution of folk and tribal traditions to Indian Culture?

Ans. _____

3. Explain a few central ideas of Buddhism. Briefly comment upon them.

Ans. _____

4. Consider and discuss in class Andre Beteille's thought.

Ans. _____

5. Explain a few central ideas of Jainism. Briefly comment upon them.

Ans. _____

Answer

- A.
- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Four | 5. Truth is one, but sages | 8. Bodh Gaya |
| 2. Both a & b | give it many names | 9. 6th century |
| 3. Sanskrit | 6. Agni | 10. Arunachal Pradesh |
| 4. Truth | 7. Siddhartha Gautama | |
- B.
- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Indus Valley | 5. thirty janas | 9. Atman |
| 2. Unique identity | 6. Upanishads | 10. Charvaka |
| 3. ṛitam | 7. Brahman | |
| 4. Ṛig Veda | 8. Nachiketa | |
- C.
- | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| 1. False | 2. True | 3. True | 4. False | 5. True | 6. False |
| 7. False | 8. False | 9. True | 10. True | | |
- D.
- The Sapta Sindhava region is the land between the seven rivers mentioned in the Vedic texts.
 - The Vedas promoted social order, religious rituals, and philosophical inquiry.
 - The goal of Yoga is to achieve union with the divine.
 - Uddalaka conveyed to Shvetaketu that everything in the universe is interconnected and originates from the same source.
 - The Sangha is the community of monks and nuns founded by the Buddha.
 - Aparigraha in Jainism signifies the renunciation of possessions and the pursuit of non-attachment.
 - Monks and nuns spread their teachings through oral traditions, traveling, and establishing monasteries.
 - Folk traditions are associated with specific regions or communities, while tribal traditions are specific to indigenous groups.
 - Some tribes view nature as a sacred entity, interconnected with all living beings.
 - A similarity between some tribal religions and Hinduism is the belief in a divine power or creator.
- E.
- It is difficult to determine the exact date of the Ṛig Veda's composition because it was transmitted orally for centuries before being written down.
 - UNESCO recognized Vedic chanting as a "masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity" in 2008 due to its unique sound, complex structure, and cultural significance.
 - Siddhartha Gautama left his palace life to seek answers to the questions of suffering, old age, disease, and death.
 - Armgha's mother likely wanted her to know the story of the Buddha to instill in her the values of compassion, wisdom, and non-violence.
- F.
- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Valmiki | 5. Janaka | 9. Buddha |
| 2. Ṛitam | 6. Siddhartha Gautama | 10. Vaidya, healer |
| 3. Yajnas | 7. Mahavira | |
| 4. worldview | 8. Atman | |
- G.
- | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1. iii | 2. vi | 3. i | 4. v | 5. ii. | 6. vii | 7. iv |
|--------|-------|------|------|--------|--------|-------|
- H.
- Ṛig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, and Atharva Veda.
 - priests, warriors, farmers, merchants, and artisans.
 - karma, reincarnation, and the pursuit of spiritual liberation.

4. Donyipolo and Ullu Kiya.
5. Bhagavad Gita and the Ramayana.

I.

1. India's culture is rich and diverse, shaped by centuries of history, religious traditions, and diverse ethnic groups. It encompasses various aspects of life, including art, music, dance, literature, philosophy, religion, and cuisine. Key elements of Indian culture include the Vedas, Upanishads, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Indian culture has significantly influenced other cultures in South Asia and beyond.
2. Folk and tribal traditions have made significant contributions to Indian culture by preserving ancient customs, languages, and artistic expressions. They offer insights into India's diverse heritage and contribute to its cultural richness. Folk and tribal traditions often involve unique rituals, music, dance, and crafts that reflect the specific identities of these communities.
3. Buddhists believe that human life is a cycle of suffering and rebirth, but that if one achieves a state of enlightenment (nirvana), it is possible to escape this cycle forever. Siddhartha Gautama was the first person to reach this state of enlightenment and is still known today as the Buddha.
4. Andre Beteille's is an Indian sociologist.
 - As per his thoughts, since ancient times, thousands of castes and tribes had great influence on the religious beliefs of Hinduism.
 - Each tribe used to follow their own religion influenced by Hinduism. Similarly as per his views, Hinduism as a religion was also influenced by the tribal religious customs and traditions.
 - Finally, we could decipher from his views that Hinduism as a religion evolved through believes, customs and traditions of different castes and tribes of ancient India.
5. Jainism emphasizes three main principles: ahimsa (non-violence), anekāntavāda (many-sidedness), and aparigraha (non-attachment). Ahimsa advocates for complete non-violence towards all living beings, reflecting deep respect for life.