

\* Select and write one most appropriate option out of the four options given for each of the questions [36]

1. Which of the following is NOT one of the four Vedas?

- (A) Rig Veda (B) Yajur Veda (C) Sama Veda (D) Upanihad

**Ans. : D**

2. What is the primary focus of the Upanihads?

- (A) Rituals and offerings  
(B) Historical events  
(C) Philosophical concepts such as rebirth and karma  
(D) Governance

**Ans. : C**

3. Who was Siddhrtha Gautama before he became the Buddha?

- (A) A king (B) A prince (C) A scholar (D) A rishi

**Ans. : B**

4. Who is known for the philosophical debate with Gargi in the Brihadarayaka Upanishad?

- (A) Siddhartha Gautama (B) Mahavira  
(C) Yajnavalkya (D) Nachiketa

**Ans. : C**

5. What does the term 'Jam' derive from?

- (A) jina (B) Guru (C) Dharma (D) Brahman

**Ans.: (A) jina**

6. Which of these is the oldest Veda?

- (A) Rigvcda (B) Samnveda (C) Yajurvca (D) Atharvnveda

**Ans. : A**

Explanation: Rigvcda is the oldest Vedic text written in Sanskrit. It have been orally transmitted since the 2nd millennium BCE.

7. Who composed vedas?

- (A) Priests (B) Gods (C) Sages (D) None

**Ans. : C**

Explanation: The sages compiled the vedas in the form of hymns and texts.

8. Bhikshus were also called as .

- (A) rank                      (B) monk                      (C) slaves                      (D) None of these

**Ans. : B**

Explanation: The Buddha founded the Sangha, a community of bhikshus or monks.

9. Siddhartha was known as the

- (A) Prince                      (B) Buddha                      (C) Rishi                      (D) King

**Ans. : B**

Explanation: Siddhartha known as the 'Buddha' which means the 'enlightened' or awakened one.

10. Jainism was founded by:

- (A) Zoroaster                      (B) Mahavira                      (C) Buddha                      (D) Tao

**Ans. : B**

Explanation: Jainism was founded by the Mahavira, a Kshatriya prince, who belonged to the Lichachhavi clan. He left his home at the age of 30 and went to live in a forest.

11. A woman Upanishad thinker was:

- (A) Urmila                      (B) Jabali                      (C) Bhairavi                      (D) Gargi

**Ans. : D**

Explanation: Gargi was a woman Upanishad thinker who participated in debates and contributed ideas and credited in the early Upanishads.

12. People who composed hymns were called:

- (A) Dasyus                      (B) Aryans                      (C) Jana                      (D) Vish

**Ans. : B**

Explanation: Aryans people who composed hymns described themselves as Aryans.

13. The religion founded by Gautama (Siddhartha):

- (A) Jainism                      (B) Buddhism                      (C) Hinduism                      (D) Shaivism

**Ans. : B**

Explanation: Buddhism was founded by Gautam Buddha around 2,500 years ago. Gautam Buddha born as a prince named Siddhartha, he left all comforts and wandered for many years.

14. The universal soul has been referred to as:

- (A) Tanha                      (B) Karma                      (C) Atman                      (D) All of these

**Ans. : C**

Explanation: In Hinduism, the Atman or soul is one's eternal self. It resides in all living creatures.

15. What is the meaning of the term 'Buddha'?

- (A) Wise One                      (B) Immortal                      (C) Mortal                      (D) Upper Vehicle



**Ans. : A**

Explanation: The meaning of the term Buddha is enlightened one.

16. The vedic hymns were composed by \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) Saints (B) Rishis and Rishikas  
(C) Gods (D) None of these

**Ans. : (B) Rishis and Rishikas**

17. Early vedic society was organised in different \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) Groups (B) Janas or Clans (C) Sub continent (D) None of these

**Ans. : (B) Janas or Clans**

18. Many professions are mentioned in the vedic texts such as \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) Builder (B) Carpenter (C) Agriculturist (D) All of the above

**Ans. : (D) All of the above**

19. \_\_\_\_\_ were built upon vedic concepts and introduced new ones.

- (A) Brahman (B) Upanishads (C) Nature (D) None of these

**Ans. : (B) Upanishads**

20. \_\_\_\_\_ was born in Lumbini.

- (A) Chhandogya Upanishad (B) Siddhartha Gautama  
(C) Lord Mahavir (D) None of these

**Ans. : (B) Siddhartha Gautama**

21. 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) All the above

**Ans. : (B) 6th century**

22. In the context of Vedic society, what does the term 'Jana' refer to?

- (A) A specific profession or occupation.  
(B) A type of ritual or prayer.  
(C) A clan or larger group of people associated with a particular region.  
(D) A sacred hymn recited during rituals.

**Ans. : (C) A clan or larger group of people associated with a particular region.**

23. Which of the following correctly describes the origins of Indian culture?

- (A) Indian culture is solely based on Vedic traditions.  
(B) Indian culture has multiple roots including the Indus, Harappan and Sindhu-Sarasvati civilisations.  
(C) Indian culture only began with the arrival of the Aryans.

(D) Indian culture started with the rise of Buddhism and Jainism.

**Ans. :** (B) Indian culture has multiple roots including the Indus, Harappan and Sindhu-Sarasvati civilisations.

24. Which of the following is recognised by UNESCO as 'a masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity'?

- (A) The Upanishads      (B) Vedic chanting      (C) Mahabharata      (D) The Ramayana

**Ans. :** (B) Vedic chanting

25. Which of the following terms refers to a collective gathering or assembly in Vedic society?

- (A) Raja                      (B) Sabha                      (C) Samiti                      (D) Both (b) and (c)

**Ans. :** (D) Both (b) and (c)

26. According to Buddhism, what are the sources of human suffering?

- (A) Ignorance and attachment                      (B) Karma and dharma  
(C) Rebirth and sacrifice                      (D) Desire and duty

**Ans.:** (A) Ignorance and attachment

27. The Charvaka school of thought is known for what belief?

- (A) The material world is the only thing that exists  
(B) Life after death is certain  
(C) The importance of rituals  
(D) The concept of rebirth

**Ans.:** (A) The material world is the only thing that exists

28. Which concept is central to the Upanishads?

- (A) The importance of animal sacrifice.  
(B) The concept of 'Atman' or the self.  
(C) The denial of the existence of the soul.  
(D) The promotion of polytheism.

**Ans. :** (B) The concept of 'Atman' or the self.

29. Which of the following is not a characteristic of Jainism?

- (A) Belief in the concept of karma.  
(B) Emphasis on non-violence (ahimsa).  
(C) Worship of multiple gods.  
(D) Practice of asceticism.

**Ans. :** (C) Worship of multiple gods.

30. Which of the following is true about tribes in ancient India?



- (A) They lived under a chief
- (B) They held private property
- (C) They were considered inferior to civilised people
- (D) Both (a) and (c)

**Ans. :** (D) Both (a) and (c)

31. What is the significance of the Sangha in Buddhism?

- (A) It is a sacred text.
- (B) It is a place of worship.
- (C) It is a community of monks and nuns.
- (D) It is a philosophical concept.

**Ans. :** (C) It is a community of monks and nuns.

32. The Vedic texts were primarily transmitted through which method?

- (A) Written manuscripts
- (B) Oral recitation
- (C) Carvings on stones
- (D) Illustrated scrolls

**Ans. :** (B) Oral recitation

33. Which deity is associated with fire in the Vedic rituals?

- (A) Indra
- (B) Agni
- (C) Varuna
- (D) Sarasvati

**Ans. :** (B) Agni

34. The Vedic hymns were composed by which of the following groups?

- (A) Rishis (male seers)
- (B) Rishikas (female seers)
- (C) Both (a) and (b)
- (D) Neither (a) nor (b)

**Ans. :** (C) Both (a) and (b)

35. Consider the following statements. Choose the option that correctly describes the interaction between folk, tribal traditions, and leading schools of thought in Indian culture.

- (i) Folk and tribal traditions were isolated and did not influence mainstream beliefs.
- (ii) There was constant interaction, with deities, concepts, and rituals being exchanged freely.
- (iii) Tribal beliefs were eradicated by the leading schools of thought.
- (iv) Leading schools of thought rejected any influence from folk and tribal traditions.

- (A) Only (i) and (ii)
- (B) Only (ii)
- (C) Only (iv)
- (D) None of these

**Ans. :** (B) Only (ii)

36. Which deity is associated with fire in the Vedic rituals?

(A) Indra

(B) Agni

(C) Varuna

(D) Sarasvati

**Ans. :** (B) Agni

**\* Assertion - Reasoning based questions.**

**[9]**

37. Assertion (A): The Vedas are considered some of the oldest texts in the world.  
Reason (R): They were composed and transmitted orally for thousands of years.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong
- (D) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

**Ans. :** (B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

38. Assertion (A): Jainism and Buddhism both reject the Vedic texts as authoritative.  
Reason (R): They developed their own systems of thought that did not rely on the Vedas

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong
- (D) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

**Ans. :** (B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

39. Assertion (A): Tribal and folk traditions have had minimal influence on mainstream Hinduism.  
Reason (R) : Tribal beliefs and practices were largely separate from Vedic traditions.

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is correct but (R) is wrong
- (D) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

**Ans. :** (D) (A) is wrong but (R) is correct.

40. Assertion: The founders of Buddhism and Jainism belonged to the royal families.  
Reason: Buddhism laid down the emphasis on the middle path in all worldly matters.

- (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

**Ans. : B**

Explanation:Gautam Buddha was a Sakya Prince and led the foundation of Buddhism. Mahavira was also a prince, but left his home in search Of knowledge.

41. Assertion: The Bhikkhus and Bhikhunnis spread the teachings of Buddhism to other parts of India Reason: The Bhikkhus used to roam around and ask for food.
- (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

**Ans. : B**

Explanation:Bhikkhus and Bhikhunnis lived the simple life of an ascetic and were dependent Or others for food and other material possession.

42. Assertion: The Vedic hymns were composed by rishis and rishikas in an early form of the Sanskrit language.
- Reason: The hymns were addressed in poetical form to many deities (gods or goddesses).
- (A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).
- (C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.
- (D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

**Ans. : A**

Explanation:Hymns were addressed in poetical form to many deities (gods or goddesses), such as Indra, Agni, Varuna, Mitra, Sarasvati, Ushas, and many more.

43. Assertion (A) Tribal and Hindu belief systems have enriched each other through interactions.
- Reason (R) They share many similar concepts, including the worship of natural elements and deities.
- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (C) A is false, but R is true
- (D) A is true, but R is false

**Ans.:** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A



44. Assertion (A) The Todas of the Nilgiris avoid pointing to their sacred peaks with a finger.

Reason (R) They consider these peaks as residences of gods or goddesses.

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (C) A is false, but R is true
- (D) A is true, but R is false

**Ans.:** (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

45. Assertion (A) The Charvaka school believed in life after death.

Reason ( R ) Charvaka taught that the material world is the only thing that exists.

- (A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (C) A is false, but R is true
- (D) A is true, but R is false

**Ans. :** (C) A is false, but R is true

**\* Fill in the blank with correct answer.[1 Mark each]**

**[15]**

46. The four Vedas are Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda, and \_\_\_\_\_

**Ans. :** Atharva Veda

47. The Buddha's enlightenment occurred under the \_\_\_\_\_ tree at Bodh Gaya.

**Ans. :** Pipal

48. The concept of \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the divine essence that resides in every being according to the upanihads.

**Ans. :** Atman

49. Tainism emphasizes the conquest of \_\_\_\_\_ and attachments to achieve enligbtenment.

**Ans. :** Ignorance

50. The Jataka tales depict the Buddha's \_\_\_\_\_ and illustrate his values through simple stories.

**Ans. :** former births

51. Followers of Mahavira, were known as \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans. :** Jains

52. Some of the hymns in the are in the form of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans. :** Rigveda, dialogues

53. The hymns were composed by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans. :** Sages/rishis,

54. Gautam Buddha born as a prince named \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans. :** Siddhartha

55. The \_\_\_\_\_ are considered the oldest texts of India.

**Ans. :** Vedas

56. The idea of \_\_\_\_\_ in Buddhism is generally translated as 'non-violence' but originally means 'non-hurting' or 'non-injuring'.

**Ans. :** ahimsa

57. The Charvaka school, also known as \_\_\_\_\_, believed that the material world is the only thing that exists.

**Ans. :** Lokayata

58. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a group of families or clans sharing a tradition of common descent, culture and language.

**Ans. :** tribe

59. The \_\_\_\_\_ is considered the most ancient of the four Vedas.

**Ans. :** Rig Veda

60. Siddhartha Gautama, who became known as the Buddha, was born in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ans. :** Lumbini

**\* State if the following are true or false.[1 Mark each]**

**[23]**

61. The Vedas were written texts from the beginning.

**Ans. :** false

62. Yoga is one of the schools of thought that emerged from the Vedic texts.

**Ans. :** True

63. Jainism and Buddhism both accept the authority of the Vedas.

**Ans. :** False

64. The concept of brahman is closely associated with the notion of a supreme personal deity.

**Ans. :** False

65. The Buddha initially lived a life of asceticism before achieving enlightenment.

**Ans. :** True

66. The Buddha encouraged animal sacrifices.

**Ans. :** False

67. The Buddha attained enlightenment at Bodh Gaya.

**Ans. :** True

68. Upanishadic thinkers believed that atman and brahman were ultimately one.

**Ans. :** True

69. Mahavira was a prince in the Sakya 'gana'

**Ans. :** false

70. The Rigveda contains prayers for cattle, children and horses

**Ans. :** True

71. Buddha taught for the first time in Sarnath.

**Ans. :** True

72. The Vedic hymns were written on palm-leaf manuscripts.

**Ans. :** false

73. The Vedas are India's oldest texts.

**Ans. :** true

74. The Vedic statement ekam sat vipra bahudha vadanti reflects a belief in the unity of cosmic powers.

**Ans. :** true

75. Buddhism is older than the Vedas.

**Ans. :** false

76. Jainism emerged as a branch of Buddhism.

**Ans. :** false

77. Both Buddhism and Jainism advocated for peaceful coexistence and the avoidance of harm to all living beings.

**Ans. :** true

78. Tribal belief systems are limited to belief in spirits and minor deities.

**Ans. :** false

79. The word "Veda" comes from the Sanskrit word "vid" which means "truth."

**Ans. :** false

80. According to Vedanta, everything ranging from human life, nature, and the universe is one divine essence called brahman.

**Ans. :** true

81. The word 'Jain' comes from jina, meaning 'conqueror,' referring to the conquest of territory.

**Ans. :** false

82. Buddhism emerged as a distinct school of thought that accepted Vedic authority.

**Ans. :** false

83. There are five Vedas, namely, the Rig Veda, the Yajur Veda, the Sama Veda, the Atharva Veda and the Agni Veda.

**Ans. :** false

**\* Answer the questions.[1 Mark each]**

**[21]**

84. Write the objective of UNESCO. Nations

**Ans. :** It promotes dialogue between People through education, science and culture.

85. What do you know about early Vedic society?

**Ans. :** The early Vedic society was organised in different janas or 'clans', that is, larger groups of people.

86. What are Vedas?

**Ans. :** The Vedas are the composition of hymns called sukta. These hymns are in praise of various gods and goddesses.

87. What are Upanishads?

**Ans. :** Upanishads were the recorded conversations between the teachers and their disciples on important issues related to life and death and other things that existed in the world.

88. What do you know about Rigveda?

**Ans. :** The Rigveda, which was written over 3,500 years ago, is the earliest Veda. More than a thousand hymns, known as Sukta, or 'well-said,' may be found in the Rigveda. These songs honor a variety of deities and gods.

89. Who is a monk?

**Ans. :** A man who gives up the usual life in the world, dedicates himself to religious or spiritual pursuits.

90. What is the term for the divine essence according to the Upanishads?

**Ans. :** Brahman

91. Name one of the schools of thought that emerged from the Vedic texts.

**Ans. :** Yoga

92. What is the term used in Jainism for non-possession?

**Ans. :** Aparigraha

93. Which Vedic text is known for containing hymns and prayers?

**Ans. :** Rig Veda

94. Who is the founder of Buddhism?

**Ans. :** Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha)

95. What do you understand by school of thoughts?

**Ans. :** Schools of thoughts mean groups of thinkers or spiritual seekers who share similar ideas about human life, the world, etc.

96. Give the full form of UNESCO.

**Ans. :** UNESCO stands for 'United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation'.

97. Name the four vedas.

**Ans. :** There are four Vedas – the Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda.

98. Who is an Ascetic?

**Ans. :** Someone who engages in a rigorous discipline to attain a higher consciousness.

99. What does the word Buddha signifies?

**Ans. :** Starting apostrophe 'Buddha', which means the 'enlightened' or 'awakened' one.

100. Write about Jain teachings?

**Ans. :** Jain teachings include ahimsa, anekantavada and aparigraha.

101. What was the language used to compose the Vedas?

**Ans. :** Vedic Sanskrit was the language used to compose the Vedas.

102. What is called as Healer?

**Ans. :** Someone who uses traditional practices to relieve or heal diseases.

103. What concept was introduced by Upanishads?

**Ans. :** The Upanishads also introduced the concept of atman or Self — the divine essence that resides in every being but is ultimately one with brahman.

104. Name two epics.

**Ans. :** Mahabharata and the Ramayana

**\* very short answer questions. [2 Mark each]**

**[18]**

105. Describe the ways in which the Buddha tried to spread his message to the people?

**Ans. :** Buddha tried to spread his message to the people in the following ways :

(i) He spent his life travelling on foot, going from place to place, teaching people, till he passed away at Kusinara.

(ii) He also encouraged people to think for themselves, rather than simply accept what he said.

(iii) Buddha taught in the language of the people, in Prakrit, so that everyone could understand his message.



106. Describe the teachings of Buddha to overcome tanha.

- Ans. :** (i) The Buddha taught that life is full of suffering and unhappiness.  
(ii) This unhappiness is caused because we crave for and desire things that cannot be fulfilled.  
(iii) We crave for more and more as we achieve more.  
(iv) This incessant craving for worldly desires is described as tanha.  
(v) Buddha preached that tanha can be removed by following moderation in everything.

107. What were the main principles of Vardhamana 1 Mahavira?

- Ans. :** (i) Vardhamana Mahavira taught that the men and ' women who wish to know the truth must leave their homes.  
(ii) They must strictly follow the rules of ahimsa.  
(iii) His followers were to lead a simple life, begging for food.  
(iv) They were to be absolutely honest, not to steal and practise celibacy.  
(v) They were to give up everything including their clothes.

108. Discuss the significance of the Upaniṣhads in Hindu philosophy.

**Ans. :** The Upaniṣhads are central to Hindu philosophy, focusing on the nature of reality, the concept of ātman (the self), and brahman (the ultimate reality). They explore metaphysical questions and propose ideas about karma, rebirth, and the ultimate goal of liberation (moksa).

109. What are the main teachings of Jainism regarding the soul and karma?

**Ans. :** Jainism teaches that every soul (jiva) is intrinsically pure and eternal. Karma affects the soul's journey and can bind it to the cycle of rebirth (samsara). Achieving liberation (moksa) involves freeing oneself from karma through right knowledge, right faith, and right conduct.

110. Explain the role of rituals and ceremonies in the Vedic tradition.

**Ans. :** Rituals and ceremonies in the Vedic tradition were essential for maintaining cosmic order and pleasing the deities. They involved offerings, chants, and precise procedures to ensure the proper performance of rites and to secure blessings and prosperity for the practitioners.

111. What were the main teachings of Mahavira?

- Ans. :** The main teachings of Mahavira were :  
(i) People must strictly follow the rules of ahimsa, which means not hurting or killing living beings.  
(ii) He gave a simple message that, men and women who wished to know the truth must leave their homes.

112. Based on the Upaniṣhads, discuss the concept of brahman and its relationship with atman.



**Ans. :** According to the Upaniṣhads, brahman is the ultimate, unchanging reality, the source and essence of everything in the universe. It is infinite, formless, and beyond human comprehension. Ātman, on the other hand, is the individual self or soul, which is ultimately one with brahman. The Upaniṣhads teach that realizing the unity of ātman with brahman is the key to achieving liberation (moksa). The realization that the self is not separate from the ultimate reality but is an expression of it is central to the philosophical teachings of the Upaniṣhads.

113.



Observe the above panel (from a Jain temple in New Delhi). What is striking about it? What messages does it carry?

**Ans. :** The panel depicts a lion and a bull sharing water from a common vessel, a striking symbol of peace and coexistence between traditionally opposing forces. This depicts the Jain principle of 'Ahimsa' or non-violence, emphasising respect and harmony for all living beings, even those seen as natural enemies.

\* Answer short answer questions. [3 Mark each]

[39]

114. Analyze the impact of the Vedic texts on later Indian religious and philosophical thought.

**Ans. :** The Vedic texts laid the foundation for many aspects of later Indian religious and philosophical thought. They introduced concepts like dharma (duty/righteousness), karma (action), and the idea of a supreme reality (brahman). These ideas influenced various schools of Hindu philosophy, as well as the development of Jainism and Buddhism.

The Vedic rituals and hymns also shaped the practices of the subsequent Hindu traditions, blending with local customs and philosophies. The Upaniṣhads, in particular, contributed to the evolution of abstract philosophical discussions on the nature of reality, consciousness, and liberation, which became central themes in many later Indian philosophies.

115. What were some of the main teachings spread by Buddha?

**Ans. :** Buddha taught :

(i) Suffering and misery abound in life. We have appetites and desires, which frequently cannot be satisfied, which is what causes this.

(ii) Sometimes, we are not content with what we obtain and end up wanting more (or different things). Buddha referred to it as 'tanha' or 'thirst.' He preached that



everything should be done in moderation in order to get rid of this insatiable craving.

(iii) He also imparted kindness and respect for the lives of all living things, including animals.

(iv) He held the opinion that our deeds, whether good or bad, had an impact on us both in this life and the next. This concept is known as karma.

(v) He also encouraged people to think for themselves rather than simply accept what he said.

116. Write a short note on Upanishads.

**Ans. :** The 'Upanishads,' a collection of writings, expanded on the ideas found in the Vedas and added new ones, like rebirth and karma. A school of philosophy commonly referred to as 'Vedanta' holds that everything, including nature, human existence, and the world, is one divine essence known as brahman (which should not be confused with the divinity Brahma), or occasionally just tat (meaning 'that'). The idea of atman, or Self, the divine essence that exists in all beings but is ultimately one with brahman, was also taught by the Upanishads. This means that everything in the world is interrelated and depends upon everything else. This clarifies the meaning of a popular prayer that starts, "May all creatures be happy/" and continues, "May they all be free from disease and sorrow."

117. Refer to the teachings of the Buddha and explain how his approach to suffering differs from that of the Charvākas.

**Ans. :** The Buddha's teachings focus on the nature of suffering (dukkha) and the path to its cessation. He identified the Four Noble Truths, which include the recognition that suffering arises from craving and attachment, and proposed the Eightfold Path as a means to overcome this suffering. The Buddha emphasized the transformation of the mind and ethical conduct as essential to achieving enlightenment and freedom from the cycle of rebirth.

In contrast, the Charvākas were materialists who denied the existence of suffering-beyond the physical realm. They rejected the concept of an afterlife and karma, and their philosophy was focused on the tangible, material aspects of life. They believed that addressing suffering required practical solutions within the material world rather than metaphysical or spiritual practices.

118. If you were Nachiketa, what questions would you like to ask Yama? Write them down in 100-150 words.

**Ans. :** If I were Nachiketa, I would ask Yama the following questions

- What is the true nature of the soul, and how does it persist beyond physical death?
- How do our actions in this life impact our future lives, and what role does karma play in this process?
- Can you explain the concept of moksha, or liberation. and how one can attain it?
- How does the soul achieve unity with the ultimate reality or brahman?



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

**Ans. :** Central ideas of Buddhism are as follows

- **The Four Noble Truths** Buddhism teaches that life is characterised by suffering (dukkha), which is caused by desire and attachment (tanha). The end of suffering is possible through the end of desire, and this can be achieved by following the Eightfold Path.

- **The Eightfold Path** This is a guide for ethical and mental development with the goal of freeing the individual from attachments and delusions. It includes Right Understanding, Right Intent, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration.

- **Non-violence (Ahimsa)** Central to Buddhism, it advocates for kindness and compassion towards all living beings as a means to reduce suffering.

120. Discuss in class the quotation of the Buddha which begins with "Not by water is one made pure, though many people may bathe here [in sacred rivers]" to make sure that its meaning has been understood by all.

**Ans. :** This quotation highlights that physical cleanliness or ritualistic actions, such as bathing in sacred rivers, do not lead to spiritual purity or enlightenment. True purity comes from moral conduct, self-discipline and mental clarity. It emphasises that inner transformation and ethical living are more significant than external rituals.

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

**Ans. :** Few central ideas of Jainism are as follows

**Ahimsa (Non-violence)** Jainism teaches that one should avoid causing harm to any living being, emphasising the interconnectedness of all life.

**Anekantavada (Non-absolutism)** The idea that truth and reality are complex and have multiple aspects. No single perspective can capture the whole truth, and understanding requires recognising different viewpoints.

**Aparigraha (Non-possessiveness)** It advocates for detachment from material possessions and the limiting of one's needs to what is necessary.

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

"The thousands of castes and tribes on the Indian sub-continent have influenced each other in their religious beliefs and practices since the beginning of history and before that the tribal religions have been influenced by Hinduism is widely accepted, but it is equally true that Hinduism, not only in its formative phase but throughout its evolution, has been influenced by tribal religions."

**Ans. :** Andre Beteille's thought highlights the reciprocal influence between tribal religions and Hinduism. Tribal religions have impacted Hindu practices and conversely, Hinduism has influenced tribal beliefs. This mutual enrichment shows the fluid nature of cultural and religious exchanges in India.



123. Make a list of popular gods and goddesses in your region and the festivals they are associated with.

**Ans. :** Here is a list of popular gods and goddesses in my region and the festivals they are associated with

- **Lord Krishna** Janmashtami
- **Goddess Durga** Durga Puja
- **Lord Ganesh** Ganesh Chaturthi
- **Goddess Lakshmi** Diwali

124. As a class activity, list two or three tribal groups from your region or State. Document some of their art and belief systems.

**Ans. :** Here is a list of tribal groups from the state of Tamil Nadu

- **Toda Tribe** They are known for their distinctive traditional shawls and rituals associated with nature worship. They consider mountain peaks sacred.
- **Irula Tribe** They are famous for their traditional weaving skills and snake-catching techniques. They practice animistic beliefs centered around natural elements.

125.



Discuss the way the Buddha is depicted in the above stone panel. Can you name some states of India or some other countries where Buddhism is a major religion even today? Try to plot these on a world map.

**Ans. :** In the image, Buddha is depicted imparting his teachings to his disciples. Buddhism remains a major religion in several regions and countries.

Some countries and states in India where Buddhism is widely practiced even today are

- **States in India** Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh and today Himachal Pradesh.
- **Countries** Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

126. Stage a small play with Yama, god of death, surrounded by several Nachiketas asking him questions about life.

**Ans. :** Here is a role-play example consisting of Yama, god of death, surrounded by several Nachiketas asking him questions about life.

- **Characters** Nachiketa, Yama and other actors as onlookers.
- **Scene** Nachiketa approaches Yama and asks profound questions about life, death and the nature of the soul.



• **Dialogues** Yama provides answers that reveal the nature of existence and spiritual truths.

\* **Long answer questions [4 Mark each]**

[28]

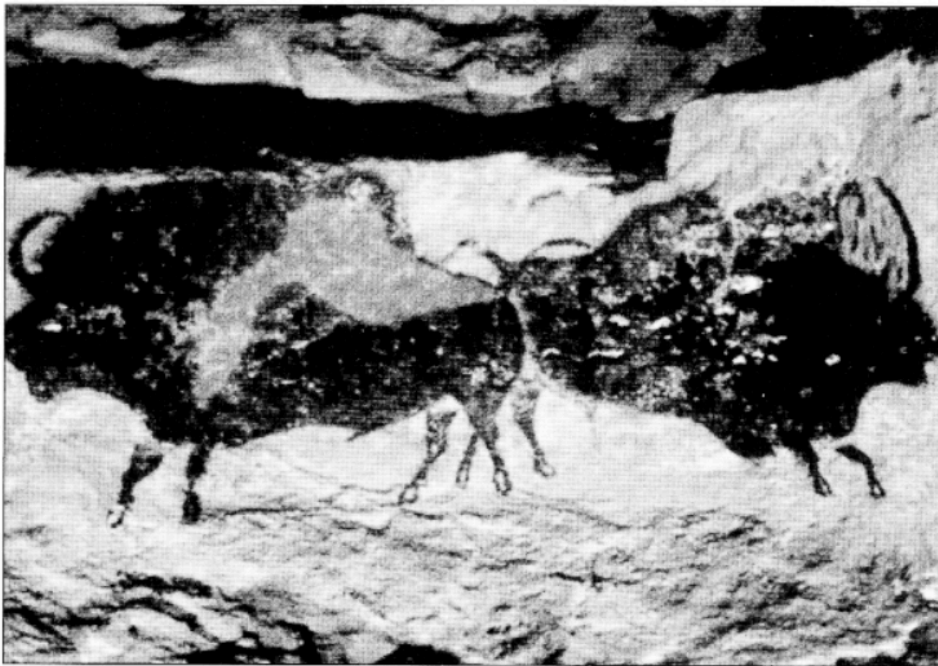
127. Compare and contrast the philosophies of Jainism and Buddhism in terms of their views on the self and the path to liberation.

**Ans. :** Jainism and Buddhism both aim for liberation but differ in their views on the self and the path to achieving enlightenment. Jainism posits that every soul (jiva) is an eternal, indivisible unit of consciousness that is trapped in the cycle of rebirth due to accumulated karma. The goal is to purify the soul and attain moksha (liberation) by eliminating all karma through ascetic practices, right knowledge, and ethical conduct.

Buddhism, on the other hand, denies the existence of an eternal self (ātman). It teaches the concept of anatta (non-self), where what we consider 'self' is an illusion created by the aggregation of the five aggregates (skandhas). Liberation (nirvana) in Buddhism is achieved through the realization of this non-self and overcoming the desires and attachments that bind one to the cycle of rebirth (samsara). The Eightfold Path is the practical guideline for this liberation.

While both traditions emphasize ethical living and asceticism, Jainism is more focused on non-violence (ahimsa) and self-discipline, whereas Buddhism provides a practical path that includes meditation and mindfulness to understand and transcend the nature of suffering and the self.

128. Look at the picture and answer the following questions



(a) Which famous site is it ?

(b) Where is it located- place and the state ?



(c) Why were so many caves cut from the rock ?

(d) How are these caves related to Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism ?

**Ans. :** (a) It is the Ellora rock cave.

(b) It is located near Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

(c) Buddhism and Jainism monks led ascetic lives in these caves cut in the rock.

(d) The caves were cut into the rock at Ellora (Maharashtra) between the 6th and the 10 th centuries CE. Some of the caves are Hindu, others are Buddhist and Jain. Here monks used to live and lead an ascetic life.

129. Look at this stone panel found at Bharhut in Madhya Pradesh that depicts the story of the monkey-king. Read the story of the monkey king in the book and answer the following questions.



(a) This story has been taken from the \_\_\_\_\_.

(b) In this story Buddha has been shown as the \_\_\_\_\_.

(c) The monkey king had instructed that no fruit from that tree should escape. Why was this instruction given by the king ?

(d) How did the monkey-king save his other monkeys from the soldiers of the king ?

**Ans. :** (a) Jatak Tales

(b) Monkey king

(c) People from outside the jungle did not know about the fruits of that tree on which the monkey used to live. The king strictly instructed that no fruit should escape from the jungle and reach the human world. If people came to know about these fruits, they were most likely to invade the monkey kingdom.

(d) In order to save the monkeys, the monkey king made his body as a bridge for monkeys to cross the stream and save themselves from the soldiers of the king who



had attacked them. The monkey king was severely bruised in the process and eventually died.

130. Do you know the term for a society where people select their leaders? How do you think people can benefit from such a situation? What could happen if they live under leaders that they did not choose? Write your thoughts in a paragraph of 100-150 words. (Hint: Think back to what you're learning in the theme 'Governance and Democracy'!)

**Ans. :** The term for a society where people select their leaders is 'democracy'. In a democratic system, individuals have a say in deciding who governs them. This ensures that leaders are accountable and responsive to their needs and interests. This creates a sense of ownership, participation and transparency in governance. On the other hand, if people live under leaders they did not choose, they may face oppression, lack of representation, and disregard for their rights and needs. Such a situation can lead to dissatisfaction, unrest, and a lack of trust in the governing bodies, ultimately undermining social and political stability.

131. What are the Vedas? What is their message?

**Ans. :** The Vedas are a collection of ancient sacred texts that form the foundation of Hinduism. They are written in Sanskrit and are considered the oldest and most authoritative scriptures in Hindu religious tradition. The term "Veda" means "knowledge" or "wisdom." There are four Vedas:

1. Rigveda : The oldest of the Vedas, it consists of hymns dedicated to various deities.
2. Samaveda : It consists mainly of verses that are meant to be sung rather than recited.
3. Yajurveda : Contains prose mantras used in ritual offerings.
4. Atharvaveda : It includes a diverse range of topics, including remedies for physical and mental ailments.

Teachings of Vedas: Vedas provide a guideline on living a righteous life, including virtues like truthfulness, charity, and respect for all living beings. They emphasize the unity of the individual soul (Atma) with the universal soul (Brahma). They uphold one's duty and living in harmony with the cosmic order. They advocate for a balanced life that includes fulfilling material needs while also striving for spiritual growth. They provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the universe, human existence, and the relationship between the divine and the mortal.

132. What new schools of thought emerged in India in the 1st millennium BCE? What are their core principles?

**Ans. :** Early in the 1st millennium BCE, several schools of thought grew out of the Vedas. One of them was Yoga, which developed methods intended to achieve the realisation of brahman in one's consciousness. Together, these schools of thought became the foundations for what we call 'Hinduism' today. Other schools of thought



also emerged, which did not accept the authority of the Vedas and developed their own systems. Some of them were:

**Buddhism :** Founded by Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha), Buddhism teaches the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path as a means to end suffering and attain Nirvana.

**Jainism :** Jainism is another important school of thought that became widespread at the time of Buddhism. Founded by Mahavira, Jainism emphasizes non-violence (Ahimsa), truthfulness, non-stealing, chastity, and non-possessiveness.

133. What is the contribution of folk and tribal traditions to Indian culture?

**Ans. :** Folk and tribal traditions have made significant contributions to Indian culture, enriching it with their unique practices, art forms, and perspectives. These traditions are integral to the cultural diversity of India and have influenced mainstream cultural expressions in various ways.

There has been a constant interaction between folk and tribal traditions. Deities, concepts,, legends and rituals have been freely exchanged in both directions. It is because folk, tribal and Hindu belief systems have many similar concepts. The thousands of castes and tribes on the Indian subcontinent have influenced each other in their religious beliefs and practices since the beginning of history. Folk and tribal traditions are vital to the cultural mosaic of India, offering a wealth of knowledge, artistic expression, and values that continue to inspire and enrich the broader Indian society.

\* Match the following.

[10]

134.

Column A	Column B
1. Rig Veda	(a) Rituals and ceremonies
2. Yajur Veda	(b) Hymns and prayers
3. Sama Veda	(c) Magic and everyday rituals
4. Atharva Veda	(d) Chants and melodies

**Ans. :**

Column A	Column B
1. Rig Veda	(b) Hymns and prayers
2. Yajur Veda	(a) Rituals and ceremonies
3. Sama Veda	(d) Chants and melodies
4. Atharva Veda	(c) Magic and everyday rituals

135.

Column A	Column B
(1) Mahavira	(i) Sarnath
(2) Enlightenment of Buddha	(ii) Lichchhavis
(3) First sermon of Buddha	(iii) Kushinara
(4) Rules of Sangha	(iv) Bodh Gaya
(5) Death of Buddha	(v) Powerful Tsunami

Ans. :

Column A	Column B
(1) Mahavira	(iii) Kushinara
(2) Enlightenment of Buddha	(v) Powerful Tsunami
(3) First sermon of Buddha	(ii) Lichchhavis
(4) Rules of Sangha	(i) Sarnath
(5) Death of Buddha	(iv) Bodh Gaya

