



SUBJECT: SST (HISTORY)
Ch-7INDIA's CULTURAL ROOTS

NOTES

Question 1.

What are the Vedas? What is their message?

Answer: The Vedas are a collection of sacred religious text in Sanskrit originating in ancient India, giving the foundation of Hinduism.

There are four Vedas: The Rig Veda, the Yajur Veda, the Sama Veda and the Atharva Veda.

- The Rig Veda contains the Hymns about the mythology.
- The Sama Veda consists mainly of the hymns about the religious rituals.
- The Yajur Veda contains the instructions for religious rituals. .
- The Atharva Veda consists of the spells against the enemies and diseases.

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

Answer:

I would like to ask Yama, the god of death, following questions, if I was Nachiketa:

- What happens after the death of a body?
- What is soul?
- What happens to soul after death?
- Will soul also die with death, if not where will it go?
- Will soul take rebirth in form of another body?

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

Answer:

- Buddhism was started by Siddhartha Gautam (Gautam Buddha).
- It evolved during 500 BCE and did not accept the concepts and principles of Vedas.
- Buddhism believed that ignorance and attachment are the source of human sufferings. Their teachings were based to remove these two causes of Sufferings ignorance and attachment.
- Buddhism preached non-violence and sincere inner discipline to reduce human sufferings.

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

Answer:

- Jainism teaches that the path to enlightenment is through non-violence and reducing harm to living things (including plants and animals) as much as possible.
- Like Hindus and Buddhists, Jains believe in reincarnation.
- This cycle of birth, death and rebirth is determined by one's karma.
- Jains believe bad karma is caused by harming living things. To avoid bad karma, Jains must practice ahimsa, a strict code of non-violence.
- The principle of non-violence includes doing no harm to humans, plants, animals etc.

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

Answer:

Here is the list of popular gods and goddesses with festivals associated with them:

- Lord Rama and Hanuman: Diwali is celebrated worldwide as on this day Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya after killing the Demon Ravana.
- Lord Ganesh: Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated on his birth anniversary.
- Lord Shiva: Shivaratri is celebrated on his birth anniversary.
- Lord Krishna: Janmashtami is celebrated on his birth anniversary.

True or False

Question 1.

The Vedic hymns were written on palm-leaf manuscripts.

Answer:

True

Question 2.

The Vedas are India's oldest texts.

Answer:

True

Question 3.

The Vedic statement ekam sat viprabahudhavadanti reflects a belief in the unity of cosmic powers.

Answer:

False

Question 4.

Buddhism is older than the Vedas.

Answer:

False

Question 5.

Jainism emerged as a branch of Buddhism.

Answer:

False

Question 6.

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

Answer:

True

Question 7.

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

Answers

False

X

3. 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.

Answer:

Main point of discussion in Class room:

- Gautam Buddha means by this quotation that you can not be pure just by having a bathe in any sacred river like the Ganges.
- You could become pure only within by following the path of non-violence and inner discipline.
- The one who could conquer his inner mind by mediation and further enlighten-ment is greater manifolds than any emperor who wins any battle killing thousands of men.

Question 7.

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

Answer:

Gonds, Bhils, Santhal, Munda and the Great Andamanese Tribes.

- The Great Andamanese Tribes are an indigenous people of the Great Andaman Archipelago in the Andaman Islands.
All living things are believed to be endowed with power that affects the human being. The art form depicts the culture and tradition.
- Bhil art is known for its simplicity and use of vibrant colours. The art form is practised on the walls, floors, clothes.
Similarly students could give details of tribal groups from their region.

Question 5.

Consider and discuss in class Andre Beteille’s thought (see page 122).

Answer:

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.

