

a. Known as the Land of Everest, Nepal is one of the most charming countries in Asia. The Kingdom of Nepal is a small land of sublime beauty. It has some of the world's best and very important temples. It is a country that is rich in scenic beauty and cultural heritage.

b. Nepal lies between India and the Tibetan part of China. This small country has an area of 147,181 square kilometers. Southern Nepal is tropical low land known as the Terai Plains. This part of Nepal has hot summers and warm winters. Here the temperatures reach up to 40°C in April and May and monsoon rains drench this region from June to September. The central hill-lands including the Kathmandu and Pokhara valleys have a temperate climate and are also influenced by the monsoon, North of that is the slope of the main section of the Himalayan range. This part of Nepal has some of the highest peaks of the world including Everest.

c. Nepal is home to nearly 29,000,000 people. The population is primarily rural. Kathmandu, the capital city, has less than one million inhabitants. Nepal's demographic features are complicated not only by dozens of ethnic groups, but by different castes. In total, there are 103 castes and ethnic groups living in this small country. The two largest of such groups are known as Chetri and Bahun. Others include Magar, Tharu and Tamang, Newar, Muslim, Gurung and Damai. About 48 percent of the people speak Nepali. Among other languages spoken are Maithali, Bhojpuri, Tharu and Tamang.

d. Nepal is the holy land of Lord Pashupatinath and Gautam Buddha where the Hindus and Buddhists have lived together in harmony for centuries. The Temple of Pashupatinath is the most sacred Hindu shrine and one of the four most important sites in the world for Shiva worshippers. Lord Buddha, the light of Asia, was born in Lumbini in Nepal's southern plains, which makes this a sacred pilgrimage destination for the Buddhists as well. In fact, many Nepalese combine Hindu and Buddhist practices; many temples and shrines are shared between the two faiths, and some deities are worshipped by both Hindus and Buddhists.

e. The Kathmandu Valley is the richest cultural heritage centre of Nepal. The three ancient cities of the Valley Patan, Kathmandu and Bhaktapur represent an epitome of harmony in urban design, elegant architecture and refined culture. These cities are famous for religious monuments unequalled in the world. The seven monument zones situated within the Valley have been named as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

f. Many festivals add dazzling colour to Nepal's vibrant culture, which are celebrated throughout the year. Dasain or dusherra is celebrated nationwide in October. This is the most important of all Nepalese celebrations and includes the biggest animal sacrifice of the year. Tihar is celebrated in November. Other festivals include the Holi and Chaitra Daisan. Some Hindu festivals are the Haribodhini Ekadashi, Maha Sivaratri and the Krishna Jayanti. There are Buddhist celebrations too and those include Mani Rimd, Buddha Jayanti and Losar, which marks the Tibetan New Year.

এভারেস্টের দেশ নামে পরিচিত, নেপাল এশিয়ার সবচেয়ে আকর্ষণীয় দেশগুলোর মধ্যে একটি। নেপালের রাজ্যটি এক ছোট কিন্তু অপূর্ব সুন্দর দেশ। এখানে বিশ্বের অন্যতম সেরা ও গুরুত্বপূর্ণ মন্দির রয়েছে। এটি একটি দেশ যা নৈসর্গিক সৌন্দর্য ও সাংস্কৃতিক ঐতিহ্যে সমৃদ্ধ।

নেপাল ভারত এবং চীনের তিব্বতি অংশের মধ্যে অবস্থিত। এই ছোট দেশটির আয়তন ১৪৭,১৮১ বর্গকিলোমিটার। দক্ষিণ নেপাল তরাই সমভূমি নামে পরিচিত, যা উষ্ণমণ্ডলীয় অঞ্চল। এই অঞ্চলে গ্রীষ্মকালে তীব্র গরম এবং শীতকালে হালকা উষ্ণ আবহাওয়া বিরাজ করে। এপ্রিল ও মে মাসে তাপমাত্রা ৪০°সে পর্যন্ত পৌঁছায় এবং জুন থেকে সেপ্টেম্বর পর্যন্ত মৌসুমি বৃষ্টি এই অঞ্চলে প্রচুর পরিমাণে বর্ষণ ঘটায়। মধ্যবর্তী পার্বত্য অঞ্চল, যেখানে কাঠমান্ডু ও পোখারা উপত্যকা অবস্থিত, এটি একটি মৃদু জলবায়ুর অধীন এবং মৌসুমি বৃষ্টিপাত দ্বারা প্রভাবিত। এর উত্তরে হিমালয়ের প্রধান অংশের ঢাল রয়েছে, যেখানে বিশ্বের সর্বোচ্চ শৃঙ্গসমূহের মধ্যে এভারেস্টও অন্তর্ভুক্ত।

নেপালের জনসংখ্যা প্রায় ২৯,০০,০০০। এখানকার বেশিরভাগ মানুষ গ্রামীণ এলাকায় বসবাস করে। রাজধানী কাঠমান্ডুতে এক মিলিয়নেরও কম মানুষ বাস করে। নেপালের জনসংখ্যাগত বৈশিষ্ট্য অত্যন্ত জটিল, কারণ এখানে বহু জাতিগোষ্ঠী ও বিভিন্ন বর্ণের মানুষ রয়েছে। এই ছোট দেশে মোট ১০৩টি জাতি ও গোষ্ঠী বাস করে। এর মধ্যে সবচেয়ে বড় দুটি গোষ্ঠী চেত্রী ও বহুন। অন্যান্য জাতিগোষ্ঠীর মধ্যে মাগার, থারু, তামাং, নেয়ার, মুসলিম, গুরুঙ্গ ও দামাই অন্যতম। প্রায় ৪৮% মানুষ নেপালি ভাষায় কথা বলে। এছাড়া মৈথিলি, ভোজপুরি, থারু এবং তামাং ভাষাও প্রচলিত।

নেপাল হল পবিত্র ভূমি যেখানে ভগবান পশুপতিনাথ এবং গৌতম বুদ্ধের স্মৃতি বিরাজমান। এখানে হিন্দু ও বৌদ্ধ ধর্মাবলম্বীরা শত শত বছর ধরে শান্তিপূর্ণভাবে সহাবস্থান করেছে। পশুপতিনাথ মন্দির হলো বিশ্বের চারটি প্রধান শিব মন্দিরের মধ্যে অন্যতম এবং এটি হিন্দুদের জন্য সর্বোচ্চ পবিত্র তীর্থস্থান। গৌতম বুদ্ধ, যিনি এশিয়ার আলো নামে পরিচিত, নেপালের দক্ষিণাঞ্চলীয় সমভূমি লুম্বিনীতে জন্মগ্রহণ করেন। এজন্য এটি বৌদ্ধদের জন্য একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তীর্থস্থান। প্রকৃতপক্ষে, অনেক নেপালি হিন্দু ও বৌদ্ধ ধর্মের মিশ্র আচার পালন করে। এখানে বহু মন্দির ও উপাসনালয় উভয় ধর্মের অনুসারীরা একসঙ্গে ব্যবহার করে, এবং কিছু দেব-দেবীর পূজা হিন্দু ও বৌদ্ধ উভয় সম্প্রদায়ের মানুষ করে থাকে।

কাঠমান্ডু উপত্যকা নেপালের সবচেয়ে সমৃদ্ধ সাংস্কৃতিক ঐতিহ্য কেন্দ্র। এই উপত্যকার তিনটি প্রাচীন শহর—পাটান, কাঠমান্ডু এবং ভক্তপুর—শহর পরিকল্পনা, মনোমুগ্ধকর স্থাপত্য এবং পরিশীলিত সংস্কৃতির এক অনন্য নিদর্শন। এই শহরগুলো বিশ্বের সবচেয়ে আকর্ষণীয় ধর্মীয় স্থাপত্যের জন্য বিখ্যাত। উপত্যকার সাতটি স্মৃতিস্তম্ভ অঞ্চল ইউনেস্কো কর্তৃক বিশ্ব ঐতিহ্যবাহী স্থান হিসেবে স্বীকৃতি পেয়েছে।

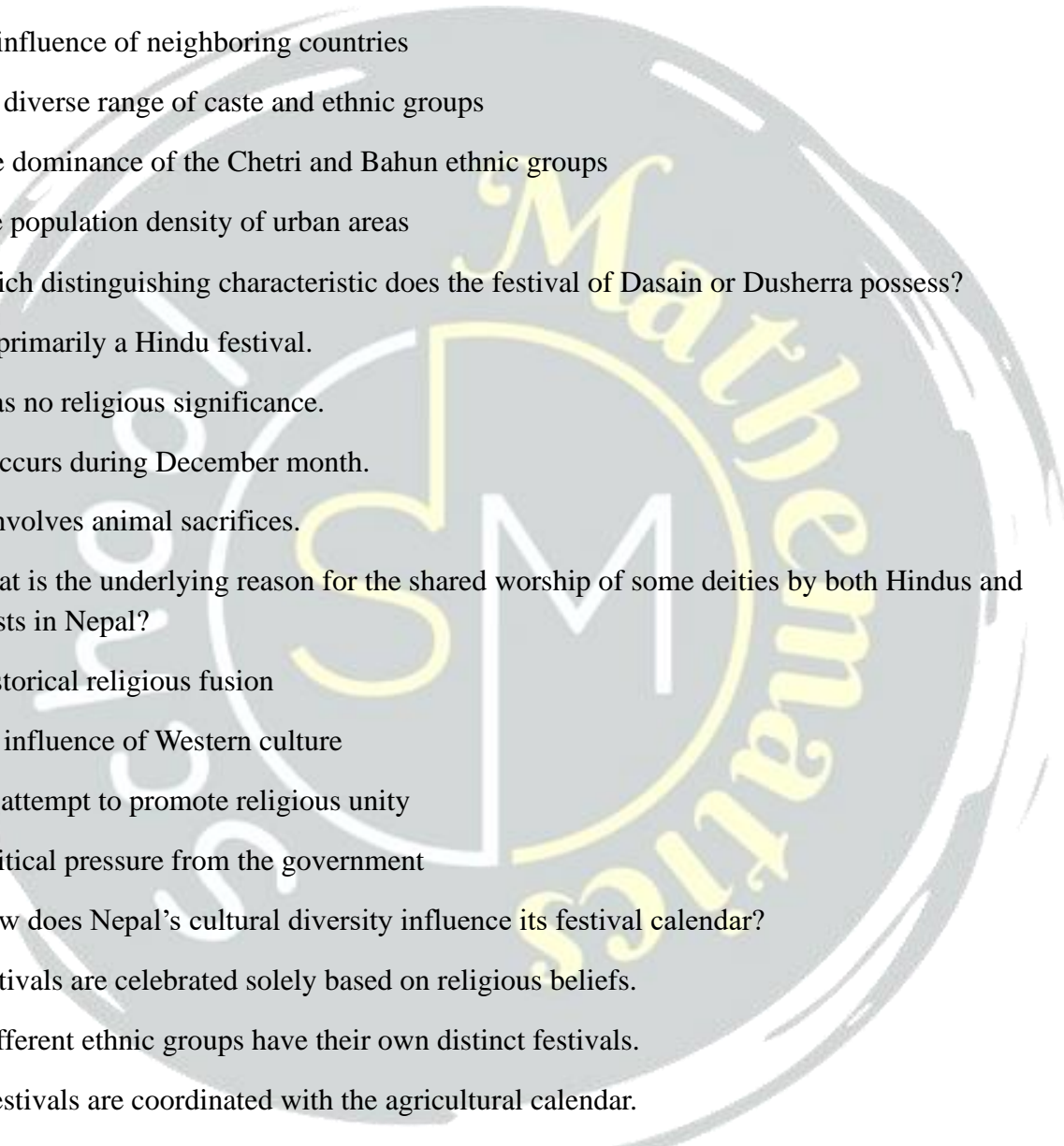
নেপালের প্রাণবন্ত সংস্কৃতিতে বিভিন্ন উৎসব বছরজুড়ে বর্ণিলতা যোগ করে। দশাইন বা দশেরা হলো নেপালের সবচেয়ে বড় হিন্দু উৎসব, যা অক্টোবরে পালিত হয় এবং এতে বৃহৎ পশু বলির আয়োজন করা হয়। তিহার, যা নভেম্বরে উদযাপিত হয়, এটি দীপাবলির মতো একটি উৎসব যেখানে দেবতা, প্রাণী এবং সম্পর্ককে সম্মান জানানো হয়। অন্যান্য উৎসবের মধ্যে হোলি ও চৈত্র দাসাইন অন্যতম। কিছু বিশেষ হিন্দু উৎসবের মধ্যে হরিবোধিনী একাদশী, মহাশিবরাত্রি এবং কৃষ্ণ জন্মাষ্টমী অন্তর্ভুক্ত। বৌদ্ধ সম্প্রদায়ের কিছু প্রধান উৎসব হলো মণি রিমদু, বুদ্ধ পূর্ণিমা এবং লোসার, যা তিব্বতি নববর্ষ হিসেবে পালিত হয়।

এইসব উৎসব নেপালের ধর্মীয় সম্প্রীতি ও সমৃদ্ধ সংস্কৃতির প্রতিচ্ছবি বহন করে।

1. Choose the correct answer from the following alternatives.

(a) What geographical features influence Nepal's climate and weather patterns the most?

(i) The presence of major rivers

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- (ii) Its proximity to the equator
 - (iii) The Himalayan Mountain range
 - (iv) The location of major cities
- (b) Which factor contributes significantly to the complexity of Nepal's demographics?
- (i) The influence of neighboring countries
 - (ii) The diverse range of caste and ethnic groups
 - (iii) The dominance of the Chetri and Bahun ethnic groups
 - (iv) The population density of urban areas
- (c) Which distinguishing characteristic does the festival of Dasain or Dusherra possess?
- (i) It is primarily a Hindu festival.
 - (ii) It has no religious significance.
 - (iii) It occurs during December month.
 - (iv) It involves animal sacrifices.
- (d) What is the underlying reason for the shared worship of some deities by both Hindus and Buddhists in Nepal?
- (i) A historical religious fusion
 - (ii) The influence of Western culture
 - (iii) An attempt to promote religious unity
 - (iv) Political pressure from the government
- (e) How does Nepal's cultural diversity influence its festival calendar?
- (i) Festivals are celebrated solely based on religious beliefs.
 - (ii) Different ethnic groups have their own distinct festivals.
 - (iii) Festivals are coordinated with the agricultural calendar.
 - (iv) Festivals are primarily influenced by Western traditions.
- (f) What is the significance of the Kathmandu Valley's recognition as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO?
- (i) It allows for free entry to the monuments.
 - (ii) It boosts Nepal's tourism revenue significantly.

(iii) It preserves the cultural and historical heritage of the area.

(iv) It ensures political autonomy for the valley.

(g) What is the term used to describe the area of Nepal that has a temperate climate and includes the Kathmandu and Pokhara valleys?

(i) Terai (ii) Himalayas (iii) Hill-lands (iv) Plateaus

02. Answer the following questions.

(a) How does Nepal's geographical diversity influence its climate patterns and weather conditions?

(b) What role is played by shared cultural practices and religious beliefs in promoting harmony between Hindus and Buddhists in Nepal?

(c) How does Nepal's ethnic and caste diversity contribute to its complex demographic landscape?

(d) Explain the significance of the Kathmandu Valley as a cultural heritage center, highlighting its architecture and UNESCO recognition.

(e) How does the celebration of various festivals contribute to the vibrancy and identity of Nepal's culture, and can you give examples?

03. Fill in each gap with a suitable word based on the information of the text given above.

Nepal holds significance as the (a)_____ home of Lord Pashupatinath and Gautam Buddha, where Hindus and Buddhists have (b)_____ peacefully for ages. The Pashupatinath Temple is a (c)_____ revered Hindu sanctuary and one of Shiva devotees' four key global sites. Lumbini, in Nepal's southern plains, marks the (d)_____ of Lord Buddha, attracting Buddhist pilgrims. The country's (e)_____ landscape often intertwines Hindu and Buddhist customs, with shared temples, shrines, and mutual deity worship.

Answers:

01. (a) (iii) The Himalayan Mountain range

(b) (ii) The diverse range of caste and ethnic groups

(c) (iv) It involves animal sacrifices.

(d) (i) A historical religious fusion

(e) (ii) Different ethnic groups have their own distinct festivals.

(f) (iii) It preserves the cultural and historical heritage of the area.

(g) (iii) Hill-lands

02. (a) Nepal's geographical diversity, including the Terai Plains, the hill-lands, and the Himalayan range, results in a wide range of climate patterns. The Terai Plains experience tropical weather while the hill lands have a temperate climate. The Himalayas influences the monsoon and creates distinct weather phenomena.

(b) Nepal is the home of both Hinduism and Buddhism, and shared cultural practices and religious beliefs foster a sense of unity between the two communities. Many temples and shrines are used by both Hindus and Buddhists, and certain festivals are celebrated by both groups, contributing to religious and cultural harmony.

(c) Nepal's ethnic and caste diversity create a multifaceted demographic landscape with more than 100 castes and ethnic groups. This complexity influences social structure, cultural practices, and identity formation, making Nepal a rich tapestry of cultures and traditions.

(d) The Kathmandu Valley is renowned for its rich cultural heritage. The three ancient cities of the valley Patan, Kathmandu, and Bhaktapur showcase harmonious urban design. This cultural wealth led to UNESCO designating the seven monument zones within the valley as World Heritage Sites to preserve its historical and architectural value.

(e) Festivals are an integral part of Nepal's culture, providing colorful glimpses of its diverse traditions and practices. Festivals like Dasain, Tihar, Holi, and Losar are celebrated with enthusiasm, involving rituals, dances, and feasting. These celebrations reflect the cultural mosaic of Nepal and reinforce its social bonds.

03. (a) spiritual

(b) coexisted

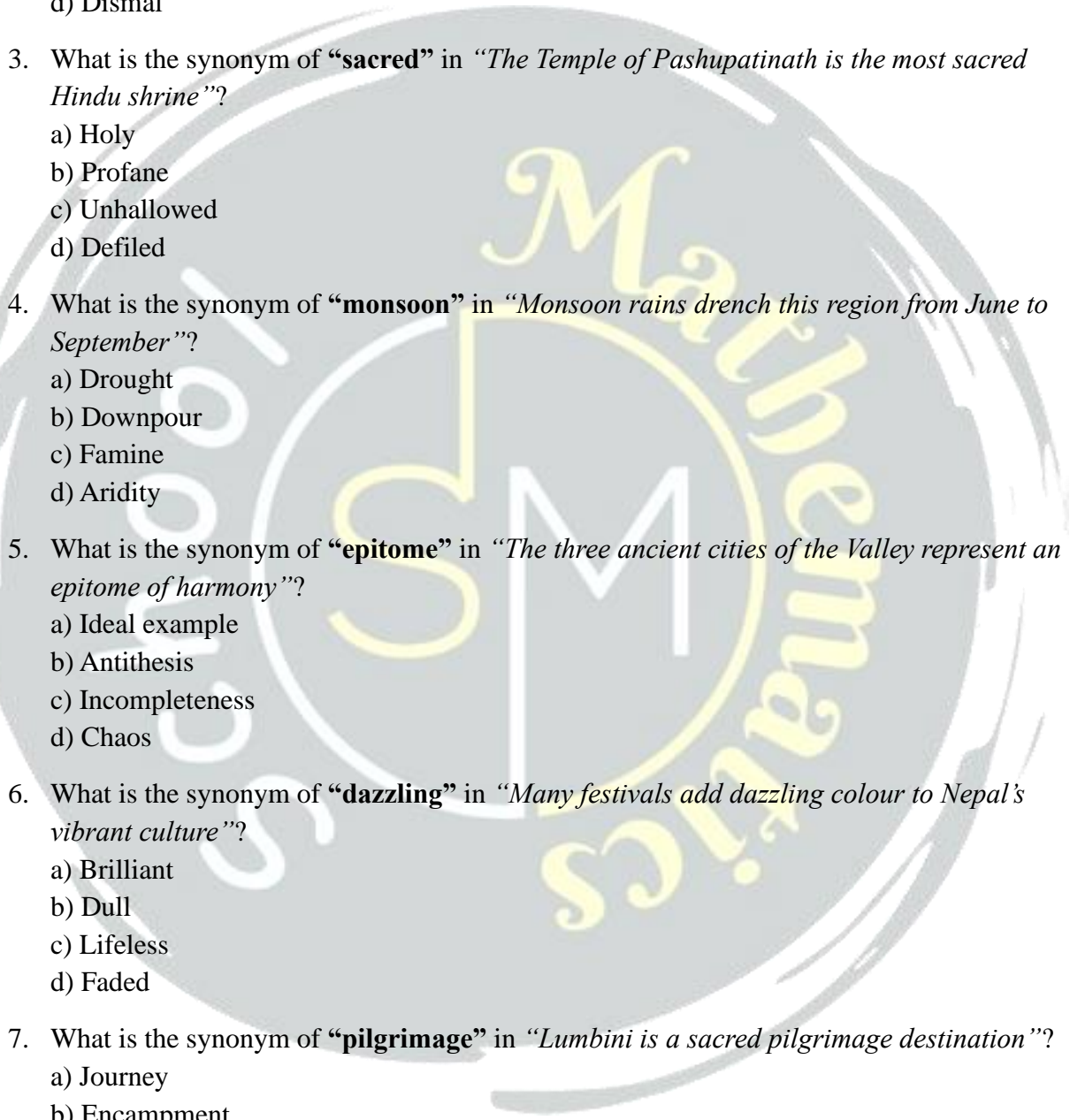
(c) highly

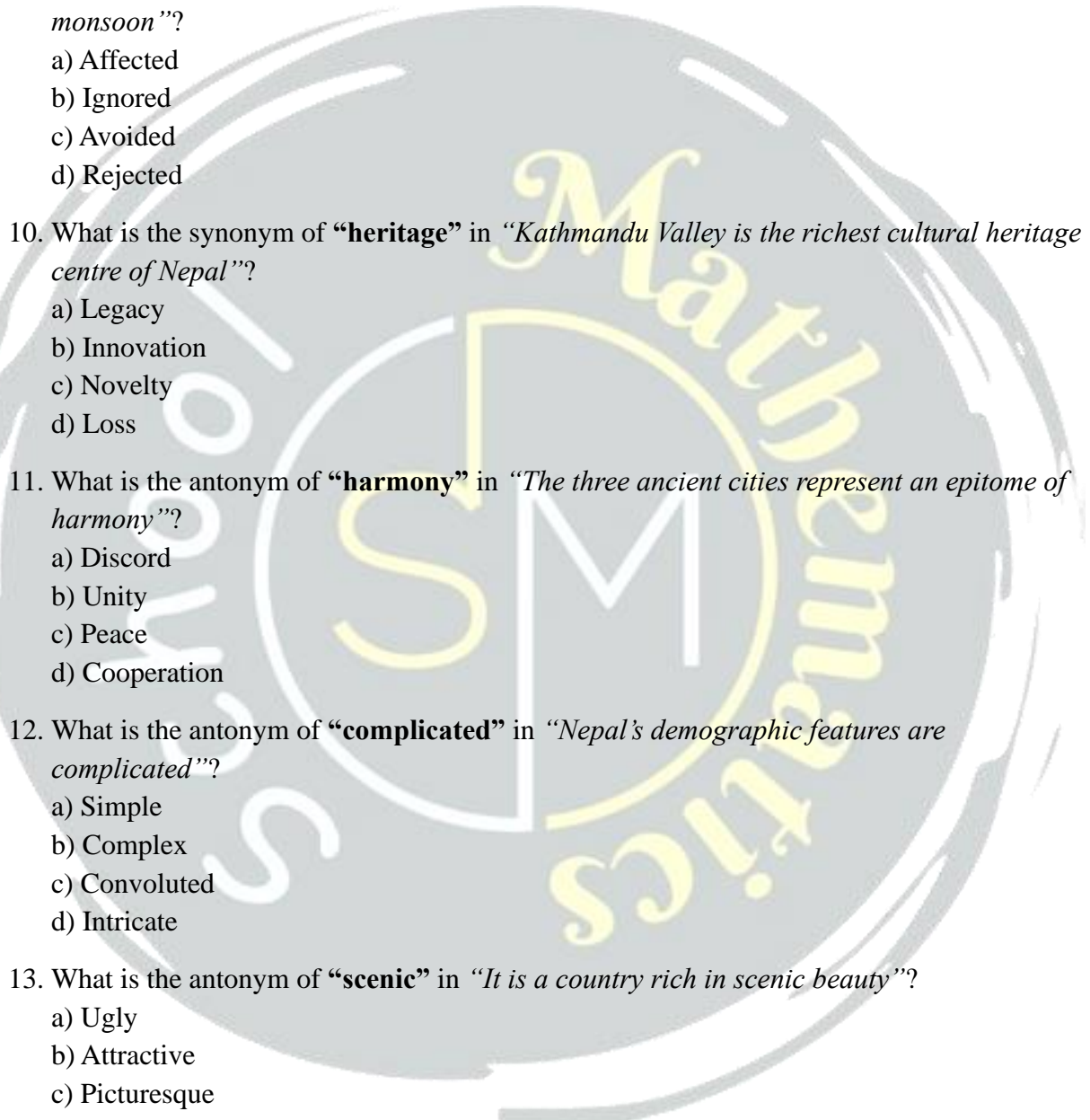
(d) birthplace

(e) religious

For more practice:

1. What is the synonym of "**charming**" in the phrase "*Nepal is one of the most charming countries in Asia*"?
 - a) Boring
 - b) Delightful
 - c) Dull
 - d) Tedious

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2. What is the synonym of **“sublime”** in *“The Kingdom of Nepal is a small land of sublime beauty”*?
 - a) Magnificent
 - b) Ordinary
 - c) Commonplace
 - d) Dismal
 3. What is the synonym of **“sacred”** in *“The Temple of Pashupatinath is the most sacred Hindu shrine”*?
 - a) Holy
 - b) Profane
 - c) Unhallowed
 - d) Defiled
 4. What is the synonym of **“monsoon”** in *“Monsoon rains drench this region from June to September”*?
 - a) Drought
 - b) Downpour
 - c) Famine
 - d) Aridity
 5. What is the synonym of **“epitome”** in *“The three ancient cities of the Valley represent an epitome of harmony”*?
 - a) Ideal example
 - b) Antithesis
 - c) Incompleteness
 - d) Chaos
 6. What is the synonym of **“dazzling”** in *“Many festivals add dazzling colour to Nepal’s vibrant culture”*?
 - a) Brilliant
 - b) Dull
 - c) Lifeless
 - d) Faded
 7. What is the synonym of **“pilgrimage”** in *“Lumbini is a sacred pilgrimage destination”*?
 - a) Journey
 - b) Encampment
 - c) Hesitation
 - d) Settlement
 8. What is the synonym of **“temperate”** in *“The central hill-lands have a temperate climate”*?

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- a) Moderate
b) Extreme
c) Harsh
d) Severe
9. What is the synonym of **“influenced”** in *“The climate is also influenced by the monsoon”*?
a) Affected
b) Ignored
c) Avoided
d) Rejected
10. What is the synonym of **“heritage”** in *“Kathmandu Valley is the richest cultural heritage centre of Nepal”*?
a) Legacy
b) Innovation
c) Novelty
d) Loss
11. What is the antonym of **“harmony”** in *“The three ancient cities represent an epitome of harmony”*?
a) Discord
b) Unity
c) Peace
d) Cooperation
12. What is the antonym of **“complicated”** in *“Nepal’s demographic features are complicated”*?
a) Simple
b) Complex
c) Convoluted
d) Intricate
13. What is the antonym of **“scenic”** in *“It is a country rich in scenic beauty”*?
a) Ugly
b) Attractive
c) Picturesque
d) Charming
14. What is the antonym of **“rural”** in *“The population is primarily rural”*?
a) Urban
b) Countryside

- c) Agricultural
- d) Remote

15. What is the antonym of “**refined**” in “*Elegant architecture and refined culture*”?

- a) Crude
- b) Sophisticated
- c) Elegant
- d) Polished

16. What is the antonym of “**vibrant**” in “*Many festivals add dazzling colour to Nepal’s vibrant culture*”?

- a) Dull
- b) Energetic
- c) Lively
- d) Bright

17. What is the antonym of “**ancient**” in “*The three ancient cities of the Valley*”?

- a) Modern
- b) Old
- c) Historic
- d) Traditional

18. What is the antonym of “**magnificent**” in “*The Kingdom of Nepal is a land of magnificent beauty*”?

- a) Ordinary
- b) Spectacular
- c) Grand
- d) Stunning

19. What is the antonym of “**temperate**” in “*The central hill-lands have a temperate climate*”?

- a) Extreme
- b) Moderate
- c) Pleasant
- d) Balanced

20. What is the antonym of “**sacred**” in “*Pashupatinath is the most sacred Hindu shrine*”?

- a) Profane
- b) Holy
- c) Divine
- d) Revered

21. Which part of Nepal is known for its high temperatures and monsoon rains?

- a) Terai Plains

- b) Kathmandu Valley
- c) Himalayan Region
- d) Pokhara

22. What is the capital of Nepal?

- a) Lumbini
- b) Pokhara
- c) Kathmandu
- d) Bhaktapur

23. What religion is most closely associated with Pashupatinath?

- a) Buddhism
- b) Christianity
- c) Hinduism
- d) Islam

24. Where was Lord Buddha born?

- a) Kathmandu
- b) Pokhara
- c) Lumbini
- d) Bhaktapur

25. What is the predominant climate of Kathmandu Valley?

- a) Tropical
- b) Temperate
- c) Arctic
- d) Desert

26. What is the total area of Nepal?

- a) 147,181 sq km
- b) 120,000 sq km
- c) 180,000 sq km
- d) 100,000 sq km

27. What is the most spoken language in Nepal?

- a) Hindi
- b) English
- c) Nepali
- d) Bengali

28. Which group is NOT among the major ethnic groups of Nepal?

- a) Tharu
- b) Tamang

- c) Zulu
- d) Chetri

29. Which city is NOT one of the three ancient cities of Kathmandu Valley?

- a) Bhaktapur
- b) Patan
- c) Pokhara
- d) Kathmandu

30. What is the significance of Dasain in Nepal?

- a) It marks the New Year
- b) It is a Buddhist festival
- c) It is the biggest festival in Nepal
- d) It is celebrated by only one ethnic group

31. Why is Nepal referred to as the "**Land of Everest**"?

- a) It has the highest number of temples in Asia
- b) Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, is located there
- c) The climate is extremely cold throughout the country
- d) Most Nepalese people live near Everest

32. Which of the following best describes Nepal's **geographical location**?

- a) It is surrounded by China on all sides
- b) It is a coastal country in South Asia
- c) It is a landlocked country between India and Tibet
- d) It shares a border with Bhutan and Myanmar

33. Which region of Nepal experiences **the highest temperatures**?

- a) Kathmandu Valley
- b) The Terai Plains
- c) The Himalayan region
- d) The central hill-lands

34. Why is **Lumbini** significant?

- a) It is Nepal's largest city
- b) It is where the Temple of Pashupatinath is located
- c) It is the birthplace of Lord Buddha
- d) It is the capital city of Nepal

35. How does the **monsoon** impact Nepal?

- a) It causes extreme cold throughout the year
- b) It leads to excessive dryness in all regions
- c) It brings heavy rainfall between June and September
- d) It increases the population density in Kathmandu

36. What makes **the Kathmandu Valley** culturally significant?
- a) It is the only place in Nepal where Hindus and Buddhists live
 - b) It has three ancient cities known for their architecture and monuments
 - c) It is the most populated region in Nepal
 - d) It is home to the Terai Plains and Mount Everest
37. Which of the following describes Nepal's **demographic complexity**?
- a) It has more than 100 ethnic and caste groups
 - b) All people in Nepal speak only Nepali
 - c) The population is primarily urban
 - d) Nepal has only two ethnic groups
38. Which statement about **Nepal's climate** is true?
- a) It remains hot throughout the year
 - b) The central hill-lands have a temperate climate
 - c) The Terai region is covered in snow year-round
 - d) The entire country has the same climate
39. Why is the **Temple of Pashupatinath** important?
- a) It is the birthplace of Buddha
 - b) It is one of the most sacred sites for Shiva worshippers
 - c) It is the largest Buddhist temple in Nepal
 - d) It is located on Mount Everest
40. Which language is **most commonly spoken** in Nepal?
- a) Maithili
 - b) Bhojpuri
 - c) Tharu
 - d) Nepali
41. Which of the following **best describes Nepal's religious culture**?
- a) Only Hindus live in Nepal
 - b) Nepal has separate cities for Hindus and Buddhists
 - c) Hindu and Buddhist practices are often interwoven
 - d) Islam is the dominant religion in Nepal
42. What makes Nepal's **festivals unique**?
- a) They are influenced only by Hindu traditions
 - b) The same festivals are celebrated in all South Asian countries
 - c) They reflect Nepal's cultural diversity and include both Hindu and Buddhist celebrations
 - d) Nepal does not celebrate any major festivals

43. What is the **primary reason** for UNESCO recognizing the **Kathmandu Valley** as a World Heritage Site?
- a) It has an extremely high population density
 - b) It contains important cultural and religious monuments
 - c) It has a modern architectural design
 - d) It is home to the highest peak in the world
44. The **two largest ethnic groups** in Nepal are:
- a) Gurung and Muslim
 - b) Chetri and Bahun
 - c) Tharu and Tamang
 - d) Damai and Newar
45. What is the **main reason** for Nepal's **diverse linguistic culture**?
- a) Influence from the British colonial era
 - b) Its geographical proximity to China
 - c) The presence of multiple ethnic groups
 - d) The government mandates multiple languages
46. Which of the following **best describes the economy of Nepal** based on the passage?
- a) It is primarily urban-based
 - b) Most of the population lives in rural areas
 - c) It is heavily industrialized
 - d) It relies on coastal trade routes
47. What can be inferred about Nepal's **cultural harmony**?
- a) There is conflict between religious groups
 - b) Hindus and Buddhists have lived peacefully together for centuries
 - c) Only Hindu practices are followed in Nepal
 - d) Nepal is divided by religious disputes
48. Why do the **Terai Plains** experience the **highest temperatures**?
- a) They are at the lowest altitude
 - b) They are surrounded by mountains
 - c) They are closer to the Himalayan range
 - d) They receive the least sunlight
49. Which **city** is NOT part of the Kathmandu Valley?
- a) Bhaktapur
 - b) Pokhara
 - c) Kathmandu
 - d) Patan

50. What is **Losar**?
- a) A Hindu festival
 - b) The biggest animal sacrifice event in Nepal
 - c) A Buddhist festival marking the Tibetan New Year
 - d) A festival unique to the Terai region
51. What is **Dasain** known for?
- a) It is the least celebrated festival in Nepal
 - b) It is a festival celebrated only by Buddhists
 - c) It involves the biggest animal sacrifice of the year
 - d) It is a celebration that does not include rituals
52. Why is **Patan** historically significant?
- a) It is the capital city of Nepal
 - b) It is a major industrial hub
 - c) It is one of the three ancient cities in the Kathmandu Valley
 - d) It is located in the Terai Plains
53. Which of the following is **NOT true** about Nepal's geography?
- a) Nepal has tropical lowlands and high mountains
 - b) Nepal is surrounded by ocean on three sides
 - c) Nepal is home to some of the highest peaks in the world
 - d) Nepal lies between India and China
54. What is **the main reason** for **Kathmandu's lower population density** compared to other capital cities?
- a) Nepal's overall population is primarily rural
 - b) Kathmandu is too large for its population
 - c) There are no job opportunities in Kathmandu
 - d) Kathmandu has a poor climate
55. Which of the following factors has contributed **most significantly** to Nepal's religious significance?
- a) The presence of Mount Everest
 - b) The birthplace of Lord Buddha and sacred Hindu temples
 - c) Its high population density
 - d) Its monsoon climate
56. What is **one key factor** that makes Nepal's festivals **different from Western festivals**?
- a) They are celebrated only in temples
 - b) They involve deep religious and cultural traditions
 - c) They are only for entertainment
 - d) They do not involve public participation

57. What is one reason Nepal is considered a **major pilgrimage destination**?
- a) It has one of the largest Muslim populations in South Asia
 - b) It is the location of several major Hindu and Buddhist religious sites
 - c) It has a large number of Christian churches
 - d) It celebrates only one festival throughout the year
58. Which festival is **NOT** of Hindu origin?
- a) Maha Shivaratri
 - b) Krishna Jayanti
 - c) Buddha Jayanti
 - d) Haribodhini Ekadashi
59. Which ethnic group is **NOT mentioned** in the passage?
- a) Newar
 - b) Magar
 - c) Sherpa
 - d) Tamang
60. What is the **primary reason** for Nepal's **scenic beauty**?
- a) Its tropical plains
 - b) Its architectural design
 - c) Its diverse landscape, including the Himalayas
 - d) Its dense urbanization

Answers:

- 1. b 2) a 3) a 4) b 5) a
- 2. a 7) a 8) a 9) a 10) a
- 3. a 12) a 13) a 14) a 15) a
- 4. a 17) a 18) a 19) a 20) a
- 5. a 22) c 23) c 24) c 25) b
- 6. a 27) c 28) c 29) c 30) c
- 31. b 32) c 33) b 34) c 35) c
- 32. b 37) a 38) b 39) b 40) d
- 33. c 42) c 43) b 44) b 45) c
- 34. b 47) b 48) a 49) b 50) c

35. c 52) c 53) b 54) a 55) b

36. b 57) b 58) c 59) c 60) c

Q/A:

1. Why is Nepal referred to as the "Land of Everest"?
2. Describe the geographical location of Nepal in relation to its neighboring countries.
3. How does the climate vary across different regions of Nepal?
4. Why is the Kathmandu Valley considered culturally significant?
5. What makes the Temple of Pashupatinath an important religious site?
6. Explain the significance of Lumbini in Buddhism.
7. How do Hindu and Buddhist traditions coexist in Nepal?
8. Describe the diversity of Nepal's ethnic groups.
9. What are the main languages spoken in Nepal? Mention at least four.
10. Why is Nepal considered a popular pilgrimage destination?
11. How do Nepalese festivals reflect the country's cultural diversity?
12. What role does UNESCO play in preserving Nepal's heritage?
13. What are the key characteristics of the Terai Plains?
14. How does Nepal's rural population distribution affect its development?
15. Name and briefly describe two major Hindu and two Buddhist festivals celebrated in Nepal.

1. Why is Nepal referred to as the "Land of Everest"?

- Nepal is called the "Land of Everest" because it is home to **Mount Everest**, the highest peak in the world, located in the **Himalayan range**.

2. Describe the geographical location of Nepal in relation to its neighboring countries.

- Nepal is a **landlocked country** in **South Asia**, situated between **India to the south, east, and west**, and **China (Tibet) to the north**.

3. How does the climate vary across different regions of Nepal?

- Nepal has **three climatic zones**:
 - **Terai Plains** (tropical, hot summers up to 40°C, warm winters).
 - **Central hill-lands** (temperate, moderate climate with monsoon influence).
 - **Himalayan region** (cold, snowy, and home to Everest).

4. Why is the Kathmandu Valley considered culturally significant?

- The **Kathmandu Valley** is home to **three ancient cities**—Kathmandu, Patan, and Bhaktapur—famous for **historical monuments, temples, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.

5. **What makes the Temple of Pashupatinath an important religious site?**

- The **Pashupatinath Temple** is the most sacred Hindu shrine in Nepal and one of the **four most important Shiva temples** in the world, attracting devotees from around the globe.

6. **Explain the significance of Lumbini in Buddhism.**

- Lumbini, located in southern Nepal, is the **birthplace of Lord Buddha**, making it a **major pilgrimage site** for Buddhists worldwide.

7. **How do Hindu and Buddhist traditions coexist in Nepal?**

- Many Nepalese people follow a mix of **Hindu and Buddhist practices**, share **temples and shrines**, and **worship common deities**.

8. **Describe the diversity of Nepal's ethnic groups.**

- Nepal has **103 ethnic and caste groups**, including **Chettri, Bahun, Magar, Tharu, Tamang, Newar, Gurung, and Muslims**, each with distinct cultures and traditions.

9. **What are the main languages spoken in Nepal? Mention at least four.**

- The main language is **Nepali** (spoken by 48% of people). Other widely spoken languages include **Maithili, Bhojpuri, Tharu, and Tamang**.

10. **Why is Nepal considered a popular pilgrimage destination?**

- Nepal is home to **important Hindu and Buddhist religious sites**, such as **Pashupatinath (Hindu) and Lumbini (Buddhist)**, making it sacred for millions of devotees.

11. **How do Nepalese festivals reflect the country's cultural diversity?**

- Nepalese festivals include both **Hindu (Dasain, Tihar, Shivaratri)** and **Buddhist (Buddha Jayanti, Losar)** celebrations, showcasing the country's **religious harmony and rich traditions**.

12. **What role does UNESCO play in preserving Nepal's heritage?**

- UNESCO has designated **seven sites in the Kathmandu Valley** as **World Heritage Sites**, helping preserve Nepal's **historical monuments and cultural legacy**.

13. **What are the key characteristics of the Terai Plains?**

- The **Terai Plains** are **tropical lowlands** in southern Nepal with **hot summers (up to 40°C)**, **fertile lands**, and **monsoon rains** from June to September.

14. How does Nepal's rural population distribution affect its development?

- Since most of Nepal's population lives in rural areas, access to healthcare, education, and infrastructure is limited, slowing economic growth and modernization.

15. Name and briefly describe two major Hindu and two Buddhist festivals celebrated in Nepal.

Nepal celebrates a variety of festivals that reflect its rich cultural and religious diversity. Among the major **Hindu festivals**, **Dasain** is the biggest, marked by **animal sacrifices, family gatherings, and blessings from elders**, while **Tihar**, also known as the **festival of lights**, is similar to **Diwali** and honors **gods, animals, and relationships**. The **Buddhist festivals** include **Buddha Jayanti**, which commemorates the **birth, enlightenment, and death of Lord Buddha**, and **Losar**, the **Tibetan New Year**, celebrated with **prayers, feasts, and cultural performances**. These festivals highlight the **harmonious coexistence of Hindu and Buddhist traditions** in Nepal.

Fill in the blanks:

1.

Nepal, known as the (a)_____ of Mount Everest, is a land of (b)_____ beauty and rich heritage. The country's diverse terrain includes the (c)_____ Terai plains, temperate hills, and the icy Himalayan peaks. The (d)_____ climate varies across regions, from hot summers in the plains to freezing temperatures in the north. Despite its small size, Nepal is home to a (e)_____ mix of ethnic groups, languages, and traditions, making it a unique cultural hub.

2.

The Kathmandu Valley, Nepal's (a)_____ cultural heart, consists of three historic cities—Kathmandu, Patan, and Bhaktapur—famous for their (b)_____ temples, palaces, and monuments. The valley is home to several (c)_____ UNESCO World Heritage Sites, reflecting centuries of artistic and architectural excellence. The Newar community, known for their (d)_____ craftsmanship and traditions, has played a crucial role in shaping the region's culture. Today, the valley remains a (e)_____ destination for travelers, researchers, and spiritual seekers alike.

3.

Nepal's festivals bring (a)_____ energy and color to the nation's cultural calendar. (b)_____ is the most significant Hindu festival, celebrated with grand rituals and family reunions. Likewise, (c)_____ marks the festival of lights, where homes and temples are illuminated in devotion. Buddhists celebrate (d)_____ to honor Lord Buddha's life and teachings, while (e)_____ marks the Tibetan New Year with prayers, dances, and feasts. These festivals highlight Nepal's harmonious religious harmony and vibrant traditions.

1.

- (a) majestic
- (b) breathtaking
- (c) fertile
- (d) varied
- (e) diverse

2.

- (a) historical
- (b) ancient
- (c) renowned
- (d) exceptional
- (e) popular

3.

- (a) vibrant
- (b) Dasain
- (c) Tihar
- (d) Buddha Jayanti
- (e) Losar

Word	Synonym	Antonym	Bangla Meaning
Charming	Attractive, Delightful	Unpleasant, Dull	আকর্ষণীয়, মনোমুগ্ধকর
Sublime	Majestic, Grand	Inferior, Ordinary	মহিমাম্বিত, চমৎকার
Scenic	Picturesque, Beautiful	Unattractive, Boring	নৈসর্গিক, মনোরম
Heritage	Legacy, Tradition	Loss, Modernity	ঐতিহ্য, পরম্পরা
Tropical	Hot, Humid	Cold, Temperate	গ্রীষ্মমণ্ডলীয়, উষ্ণ
Inhabitants	Residents, Dwellers	Outsiders, Visitors	অধিবাসী, বাসিন্দা
Demographic	Population-related	Individual-based	জনসংখ্যাগত
Harmony	Peace, Unity	Conflict, Discord	সম্প্রীতি, ঐক্য
Sacred	Holy, Divine	Profane, Unholy	পবিত্র, ধর্মীয়

Shrine	Temple, Sanctuary	Secular Place, Common Area	মন্দির, উপাসনাস্থল
Pilgrimage	Religious Journey	Secular Travel	তীর্থযাত্রা
Monument	Memorial, Landmark	Ruin, Destruction	স্মৃতিস্তম্ভ, প্রতিমা
Refined	Elegant, Sophisticated	Crude, Unpolished	মার্জিত, সুসংস্কৃত
Unequalled	Unmatched, Unique	Inferior, Common	অতুলনীয়, অনন্য
Dazzling	Brilliant, Stunning	Dull, Dim	চকচকে, ঝলমলে
Vibrant	Lively, Energetic	Dull, Lifeless	প্রাণবন্ত, উজ্জ্বল
Celebration	Festival, Festivity	Mourning, Grief	উৎসব, আনন্দ
Sacrifice	Offering, Surrender	Gain, Keep	ত্যাগ, উৎসর্গ
Monsoon	Rainy Season, Downpour	Dry Season	বর্ষাকাল, মৌসুমি বৃষ্টি
Legacy	Heritage, Inheritance	Dispossession, Loss	ঐতিহ্য, উত্তরাধিকার