

CHAPTER-VII

THE MAKING OF REGIONAL CULTURES

2MARKS QUESTIONS:

1: What was called Rajputana by the British?

Answer: In the 19th century, the region that constitutes most of the present-day Rajasthan was called Rajputana by the British.

2: How were the Rajput rulers most distinctive?

Answer: The Rajput rulers were the apostles of bravery. They fought valiantly and often chose death on the battlefield rather than face defeat.

3: Who were the Kathaks?

Answer: The kathaks were originally a caste of storytellers in temples of north India who beautified their performances with gestures and songs.

4: What are miniatures?

Answer: Miniatures are small-sized paintings, generally done in water colour on cloth or paper.

5: What distinguished Kangra painting from the paintings?

Answer: Soft colours including cool blues and greens, and lyrical treatment of themes distinguished Kangra painting from other paintings.

6: Why was the second category of the early Bengali literature not written down?

Answer: The second category of the early Bengali literature was circulated orally and therefore it was not written down.

7: What do terracotta plaques on the walls of temples and viharas depict?

Answer: They depict scenes of fish being dressed and taken to the market in baskets.

8: Mention the role of the Chercis in the development of Malayalam.

Answer: The Chera kingdom of Mahodayapuram was established in the ninth century in the south-western part of the peninsula, part of present-day Kerala. It is likely that Malayalam was spoken in this area. The rulers introduced the Malayalam language and script in their inscriptions.

4 MARKS QUESTIONS:

1: How did regional cultures evolve?

Answer:

Regional cultures today are often the product of complex processes of intermixing of local traditions with ideas from other parts of the sub-continent. Some traditions appear specific to some regions, others seem to be similar across regions and yet others derive from older practices in a particular area, but take a new form in other regions.

2: Mention all the six dance forms that are recognised as classical.

Answer:

Six classical dances are :

- Kathak (North India)
- Bharatnatyam (Tamil Nadu)
- Kathakali (Kerala)
- Odissi (Orissa)
- Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh)
- Manipuri (Manipur).

3: How did miniature painting develop under the Mughal patronage?

Answer:

Miniatures are small-sized paintings, generally done in water colour on cloth or paper. The earliest miniatures were on palm leaves or wood. The Mughal emperors especially Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan patronised highly skilled painters. These painters primarily illustrated manuscripts containing historical accounts and poetry. These were generally painted in brilliant colours and portrayed court scenes, scenes of battle or hunting and other aspects of social life. They were often exchanged as gifts and were viewed only by the emperor and his close associates.

4: Who were the pirs? What was their position in society?

Answer:

Pirs were spiritual leaders having supernatural powers. They also functioned as teachers and adjudicators. When early settlers in Bengal sought some order and assurance in the unstable conditions of the new settlements pirs favoured them and gave them full moral support. People viewed them as respectful figures. The cult of pirs became very popular and their shrines can be found everywhere in Bengal.

5:What is the significance of fish in Bengal?

Answer:

Bengal is a riverine plain which produces abundant rice and fish. These two items are important foods of the Bengalis. Fishing has always been an important occupation and Bengali literature contains several references to fish. What is more, terracotta plaques on the walls of temples and viharas depict scenes of fish being dressed and taken to the market in baskets?

Due to the popularity of fish in the local diet, the Bengal Brahmanas also started eating fish. The Brihaddharma Purana, a thirteenth-century Sanskrit text from Bengal, permitted them to eat certain varieties of fish.

7MARKS QUESTIONS:

1. What do you know about the Rajput tradition of heroism? Write in brief

Answer:

Rajputs are closely associated with the culture of Rajasthan. It is they who made this culture distinctive. The cultural traditions of Rajasthan were linked with the ideals and aspirations of rulers. From about the eighth century, most of the present-day Rajasthan was ruled by various Rajput families. The name of Prithviraj is worth mentioning because he was one of the ablest Rajput rulers. These Rajput rulers are known for their bravery and sense of sacrifice. They cherished the ideal of the hero who fought valiantly, often choosing death on the battlefield rather than face defeat.

Stories about Rajput heroes were recorded in poems and songs, which were recited by specially trained minstrels. These preserved the memories of heroes and were expected to inspire others to follow their examples. Ordinary people also liked these stories which often depicted dramatic situations and a range of strong emotions in the forms of loyalty, friendship, love, valour, anger etc.

2. Give a detailed description of kathak, a popular classical dance form of north India.

Answer: The term Kathak is derived from Katha, a word used in Sanskrit and other languages for the story. The Kathaks was originally a caste of storytellers in temples of north India, who beautified their performances with

gestures and songs. Kathak began evolving into a distinct mode of dance in the 15th and 16th centuries with the spread of the Bhakti movement.

The legends of Radha-Krishna were enacted in folk plays known as rasa Lila, which combined folk dance with the basic gestures of the Kathak story-tellers. Kathak was performed in the Mughal court. Here, it acquired its present features and developed into a form of dance with a distinctive style. Afterward, it developed in two traditions known as gharanas—one in the courts of Rajasthan, Jaipur, and the other in Lucknow. Kathak grew into a major art form only under the patronage of Wajid Ali Shah, the last Nawab of Awadh.

By the third quarter of the 19th century, it was firmly established as a dance form not only in these two regions but also in the adjoining areas of present-day Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. Emphasis was laid on intricate and rapid footwork, elaborate costumes as well as on the enactment of stories. Although most British administrators never favoured Kathak, it survived and continued to be performed by courtesans. It was recognised as a classical dance form after the country got independence.

3. How did Bengali develop as a regional language?

Answer: Bengali is said to have been derived from Sanskrit but early Sanskrit texts derived it. Now the question arises how did this language develop. From the fourth-third centuries BCE, commercial ties developed between Bengal

and Magadha which may have led to the growing influence of Sanskrit. During the fourth century, the Gupta rulers established political control over north Bengal and began to settle Brahmanas in this area. Thus, the linguistic and cultural influence from the mid-Ganga valley became stronger.

In the seventh century, the Chinese traveller Xuan Zang observed that languages related to Sanskrit were in use all over Bengal. From the eighth century, Bengal became the centre of a regional kingdom under the Palas. Between the 14th and 15th centuries, Bengal was ruled by Sultans. In 1586, when Akbar conquered Bengal, it formed the nucleus of the Bengal Suba, While Persian was the language of administration, Bengali developed as a regional language.

By the 15th century, the Bengali group of dialects came to be united by a common literary language based on the spoken language of the western part of the region, now known as West Bengal. Thus, although Bengali is derived from Sanskrit, it passed through several stages of evolution. A wide range of non-Sanskrit words, derived from tribal languages, Persian and European language, have become part of modern Bengali.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE ON THE MAKING OF
REGIONAL CULTURES**

1: With what do we associate each region?

- A. Food
- B. Language
- C. Clothing
- D. All of these

2. The language spoken in the Chera kingdom of Mahodayapuram was

- A. Sanskrit
- B. Urdu
- C. Malayalam
- D. Persian

3. Fourteenth-century text of Sanskrit which deals with grammar and poetry was called.....?

- A. Lilatilakam
- B. Miniature
- C. Basohil
- D. Dialect

CLASS-VII-HISTORY

4. Chera kingdom was established in

- A. 9th century
- B. 10th century
- C. 11th century
- D. 12th century

5. The conquerors tried to control the temple of Jagannatha at Puri because

- A. they were very devoted to God Jagannatha
- B. the temple was very beautiful
- C. the temple had huge wealth
- D. none of the above

6. Who proclaimed himself as a deputy of God?

- A. Shankara
- B. Ramanuja
- C. King Anangbhima
- D. Ruler of Mahodayapuram

7. The word Rajputana meant

- A. the Rajput tradition
- B. in 19th century the region of present day Rajasthan
- C. group of Rajputs
- D. none of the above

8. Which type of emotions were there in Rajputs ?

- A. Bravery
- B. Valour
- C. Loyalty
- D. All of these

9. The major patrons of Kathak were

- A. Mongols
- B. Pandayan
- C. Mughals
- D. Rajput

10. Basohli was

- A. small sized paintings
- B. bold and intense style of miniature paintings
- C. old and very distinctive
- D. traditions

MCQ'S Answers:

<u>Q. No's</u>	<u>Answers</u>
Q1	D
Q2	C
Q3	A
Q4	A
Q5	C
Q6	C
Q7	B
Q8	D
Q9	C
Q10	B

**FILL IN THE BLANKS ON THE MAKING
OF REGIONAL CULTURES**

1: Bengal is a riverine plain which produces plenty of _____ and _____.

Answer: rice and fish

2: The Lilatilakam, dealing with grammar and poetics, was composed in _____.

Answer: Manipravalam

3: _____ established the kingdom at Mahodayapuram.

Answer: Cheras

4: _____ is a Persian word meaning a spiritual guide.

Answer: Pir

5: Mangalakavyas literally means _____ poems.

Answer: auspicious

6: King _____ dedicated his kingdom to the deity and proclaimed himself as the _____ of the god.

Answer: Anangabhimha III, "deputy"

SUMMARY ON THE MAKING OF REGIONAL CULTURES

India is a land of diversity in several aspects. We associate the people and regions with the language they speak. For example, if a person is speaking Bengali or Punjabi, we will relate to them as living in the Bengal or Punjab regions. Moreover, each region across the nation has its own culture, traditions, food and lifestyle. But, have all these regional cultures existed forever? No, this is surely a misconception. The regional cultures that we experience and follow in the present day have evolved by the mixing of local traditions with ideas and values inculcated from other regions. While there are some old practices that people still follow, but, over time, they are evolving into new forms.

The medieval period saw the emergence of several regional languages and the associated literature. It is quite common for us to identify a region with its language.

Every region is identified with a certain distinct type of food, clothing, poetry, dance, painting and music.

The Chera empire of Mahodayapuram, which was established in 9th century in the southwestern part of Kerala introduced the Malayalam language.