

CHAPTER 4

THINKERS, BELIEFS AND BUILDINGS

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

2Marks Questions:

1. Who held the central authority in early states?

Answer: Kings or monarchs held central authority in early states.

2. What role did farmers play in the early economies?

Answer: Farmers were essential for food production, forming the backbone of early economies.

3. What was the primary source of wealth in early economies?

Answer: Agriculture, including crop cultivation and animal husbandry, was the primary source of wealth.

4. How did early states maintain order and control?

Answer: Kings or rulers enforced control through a combination of military power and administrative systems.

5. What is a defining feature of early state economies?

Answer: Early state economies were often characterized by a reliance on agriculture and limited technological advancements.

6. What role did trade play in early economies?

Answer: Trade facilitated the exchange of goods and cultural influences between different regions in early economies.

7. Why did the development of towns contribute to societal complexity?

Answer:

Towns brought together diverse groups of people, fostering economic, social, and cultural interactions that led to increased societal complexity.

4Marks Questions:

1. How did the emergence of towns contribute to economic changes in early states?

Answer:

Towns played a crucial role in economic changes by becoming centers of trade and commerce. The concentration of artisans, traders, and merchants in towns led to the development of markets, facilitating the exchange of goods and services. This increased economic interactions and contributed to the growth of a monetary economy.

2. Question: Explain the role of kings in early states and their impact on the economy.

Answer: Kings in early states were central figures in political and economic matters. They often controlled agricultural lands, levied taxes, and organized labor for public projects. The king's authority helped in maintaining law and order, which was essential for economic stability. The collection of taxes provided the ruler with resources to support administrative structures and military endeavors.

3. Question: How did agriculture contribute to the formation of early states?

Answer:

Agriculture was a fundamental factor in the formation of early states. The ability to produce surplus food allowed for the growth of populations and the establishment of settled communities. Surpluses supported non-agricultural activities, enabling the rise of specialized roles such as artisans, traders, and rulers. This agricultural surplus formed the economic foundation for early state societies.

4. Were the ideas of the Upanishadic thinkers different from those of the fatalists and materialists? Give reasons for your answers.

Answer:

The ideas of the Upanishadic thinkers is not much different from those of the fatalists and materialists. This is brought out by the following arguments.

(i) The essence of the philosophy of Jainism was already in existence in India, even before the birth of Lord Mahavir and Vardhaman.

(ii) Ahimsa or non-violence is the most important principle of Jainism. But this also form the basic thought of Hindu religion. Thus, there is a lot of similarity between the both the streams of the religion.

(iii) Upanishada believes and teaches Karma Theory. It means men and women should act and not worry about getting rewards. Fatalists also believed in the idea of work without thinking of the consequences. Thus there is a lot of similarity between the two.

5. Question: Discuss the significance of trade routes in the development of early state economies.

Answer:

Trade routes were vital in connecting different regions and facilitating the exchange of goods and ideas. They allowed for the movement of commodities, fostering economic interdependence among diverse communities. Trade routes also played a role in cultural exchanges, as people from different regions interacted. The establishment of trade networks contributed to the prosperity and growth of early state economies.

6. Summarise the central teachings of Jainism.

Answer: The central teachings of Jainism are as follows :

The entire world is animated – even stones, rocks and water have life. They believe in non-injury to living beings, especially to humans, animals, plants and insects. The cycle of birth and rebirth is shaped through karma. Asceticism and penance are required to free oneself from the cycle of karma. For Jainism monastic existence is a necessary condition of salvation.

Jaina monks and nuns take five vows : to abstain from killing, stealing and lying; to observe celibacy, and to abstain from possessing property.

7Marks Questions:

1. Discuss the development in sculpture and architecture associated with the rise of Vaishnavism and Shaivism.

Answer:

The rise of Vaishnavism and Shaivism led to worship of a chosen deity. This helped in the development of sculpture and architecture. For example, in the case of Vaishnavism, cults developed around the various avatars or incarnations of the deity. Ten avatars were recognised within the tradition. It is possible that different avatars were popular in different parts of the country. Each of these local deities was recognised as a form of Vishnu. It, therefore, created a more unified religious tradition.

Some of these forms were represented in sculptures as in one figure the Varaha or boar avatar of Vishnu has been shown as rescuing the earth goddess. Under Shaivism, Shiva was symbolised by the linga. He was represented in the human form too. The deities and their attributes were depicted through symbols such as head-dresses, ornaments and ayudhas – weapons or auspicious objects the deities hold in their hands etc.

At the same time, the rise of Vaishnavism and Shaivism, temples were made to house images of gods and goddesses. The early temple was a small square room, called the garbhagriha, with a single doorway for the worshipper to enter and offer worship to the image. Later on, shikhara was built over the central shrine. Temple walls were decorated with sculpture.

Artificial caves were built and ultimately it led to the carving out of an entire temple, that of Kailashnath.

2. the religious traditions discussed in this chapter, is there any that is practised in your neighbourhood? What are the religious texts used today, and how are they preserved and transmitted? Are images used in worship? If so, are these similar to or different from those described in this chapter? Describe the buildings used for religious : activities today, comparing them with early stupas and temples.

Answer:

The chapter discusses the religious traditions of ancient India which included, Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, so on. As I live in the walled city of Delhi have seen people practising all these traditions. The religious textbooks of all religions are preserved and kept with great respect. They have been translated in many languages including many regional languages of the country. Now they are also preserved in the form of CD and other modern devices. Images are also used by worshippers of these religions. The Hindu deities have almost same images as they had in the past. Jains and Buddhists also use images. Temples are used by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains. Mosques are made by Muslims and churches by the Christians. The structure of all these are different but with some similarities too.

3. To what extent does knowledge of Buddhist literature help in understanding the sculpture at Sanchi?

Answer:

Buddhist literature helps understanding the sculpture at Sanchi in the following ways : A scene at the northern gateway at its first sight seems to depict a rural scene, with thatched huts and trees. However, the historians after studying the sculpture carefully, identify it as a scene from the Vessantara Jataka. It is a story about a generous prince who gave away everything to a Brahmana, and went to live in the forest with his wife and children.

The art historians acquire familiarity with biographies of the Buddha in order to understand Buddhist sculpture. According to Buddha's biographies, Buddha attained enlightenment while meditating under a tree. Many early sculptures showed Buddha's presence through symbols such as empty seat, stupa and the wheel. Such symbols can be understood only with the traditions of those who produced these works of art.

It may be mentioned that one of the earliest modern art historians, James Fergusson, considered Sanchi to be a centre of tree and serpent worship because he was not familiar with Buddhist literature – most of which had not yet been

4. Discuss the development in sculpture and architecture associated with the rise of Vaishnavism and Shaivism.

Answer: Vaishnavism and Shaivism are the two branches of Hinduism. In case of Vaishnavism, Lord Vishnu was regarded as the chief deity. In case of Shaivism Lord Shiva was regarded as the chief deity. Both traditions were part of the Bhakti movement. Bhakti movement emphasised on the love and devotion of the devotee to : the God. This tradition of Vaishnavism and Shaivism also impacted the tradition of architecture and sculpture. The temples developed the house deities. The initial temples were small and simple. It was a small room called Garbhagriha. Later it expanded, a tall structure was built on the garbhagriha. It was called Shikhara. The walls of the temple were decorated with suitors. Soon temples were built that had huge entrance and big halls for the comfort of visitors.

Many of these temples were carved out of rocks. These artificial caves were turned into temples. The tradition of artificial caves is old who had renounced the world. The most important were the Ajivikas, that developed as a sect during the reign of Asoka. Later a good example of the rock-cut temple is the Kailash Nath temple of the 8th Century.

It was carved out of a single piece rock. There is a copper plate inscription at the temple of Ellora wherein the sculptor exclaims, "How did I make it!" Sculpture was yet another way of expression. Deities were given many shapes and forms in the sculpture. Shiva has been shown in the form of Linga. Many deities have shown in different forms, sometimes grotesque. There were also combination of man and animal forms.

Multiple choice questions:

- 1. Who is known for his philosophy of existentialism and wrote extensively on the concept of freedom and individual responsibility?**
 - A. Karl Marx
 - B. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
 - C. Friedrich Nietzsche
 - D. Immanuel Kant
- 2. The Renaissance period is often associated with the revival of interest in:**
 - A. Classical art and literature
 - B. Feudalism
 - C. Gothic architecture
 - D. Byzantine culture
- 3. Which architectural style emerged during the 18th century and is characterized by ornate details, symmetry, and a focus on classical motifs?**
 - A. Gothic architecture
 - B. Baroque architecture
 - C. Renaissance architecture
 - D. Neoclassical architecture
- 4. The Enlightenment era is marked by:**
 - A. Emphasis on reason, science, and skepticism of authority
 - B. Strict adherence to religious dogma
 - C. Rejection of education and intellectual pursuits
 - D. Support for absolute monarchy
- 5. Who is considered a key figure in the development of psychoanalysis, exploring the role of the unconscious mind in shaping human behavior?**
 - A. Sigmund Freud
 - B. Albert Einstein
 - C. Jean-Paul Sartre
 - D. Friedrich Engels
- 6. The Hagia Sophia, initially built as a cathedral and later converted into a mosque, is located in:**
 - A. Rome, Italy
 - B. Istanbul, Turkey
 - C. Athens, Greece
 - D. Barcelona, Spain

- 7. The Taj Mahal, known for its intricate marble design and symmetry, was built during the:**
- A. Renaissance period
 - B. Byzantine era
 - C. Mughal empire
 - D. Baroque era
- 8. Which philosopher is associated with the concept of the "social contract," arguing that individuals create a government through mutual agreement for the protection of their rights?**
- A. John Locke
 - B. Thomas Hobbes
 - C. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
 - D. Voltaire

Answer:

- 1. C
- 2. A
- 3. B
- 4. A
- 5. A
- 6. B
- 7. C
- 8. C

Fill in the Blanks:

1. In early states, the _____ played a crucial role in establishing and maintaining authority.
2. Agricultural societies heavily relied on the labor of _____ to cultivate the land.
3. The growth of towns and cities was often linked to the development of _____ activities.
4. The emergence of early states brought about the establishment of _____ systems to organize and govern territories.
5. _____ often served as centers for trade, commerce, and cultural exchange.
6. The ruling elite, including the _____, controlled resources and made key decisions in early states.
7. The economy of early states was characterized by a mix of _____ and trade.
8. _____ were responsible for producing goods and providing essential services in urban areas.
9. The establishment of a _____ allowed for the centralized regulation of resources and power.
10. The development of early states marked a shift from decentralized societies to more _____ political structures.

Answer:

1. kings or rulers
2. farmers
3. economic
4. political
5. Towns or cities
6. nobility or aristocracy
7. agriculture
8. Artisans or craftsmen
9. government or state
10. centralized

Summary:

1. Early States: The lesson likely covers the emergence of early states, which were characterized by centralized political authority and organized governance.

Kings or rulers played a crucial role in establishing and maintaining control over these early states.

2. Economies:

The economic aspect would involve understanding the early economic systems that supported these states.

Agriculture was likely a key component, with farmers contributing to the production of food and resources necessary for the sustenance of the state.

3. Role of Kings:

Kings served as political leaders, often with significant power and authority.

They were responsible for making key decisions, enforcing laws, and ensuring the stability and security of the state.

4. Farmers and Agriculture:

The role of farmers was pivotal in providing the necessary resources for the state's survival.

Agriculture was likely the primary economic activity, with farmers cultivating crops and contributing to the overall prosperity of the state.

5. Towns and Urbanization:

The lesson might touch upon the development of towns and urban centers within these early states.

Towns could serve as hubs for trade, commerce, and cultural exchange.

6. Interconnectedness:

The interdependence of kings, farmers, and towns likely played a crucial role in the overall functioning of these early societies.

Economic activities, governance, and cultural exchanges would have contributed to the cohesion of the state.

7. Historical Context: Consideration of the historical context is important, including the geographical location and specific examples of early states and economies.

