

Chapter – 6

New Questions and Ideas

2marks:

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

Answer:

The Buddha tried to spread his message to the people in the following ways:

1. He conveyed his teaching in the Prakrit language, which was the language of the common masses.
2. He encouraged his followers to think over his messages instead of blindly following them. This helped his ideals spread further. The encouragement of free thinking meant that people could come to conclusions based on his ideas on their own.

2. What were the questions Upanishadic thinkers wanted to answer?

Answer:

The Upanishadic thinkers wanted to find answers to the following questions:

1. What happens after death?
2. Is there any life after death?
3. Why should sacrifices be performed?
4. Is there something permanent in the Universe which lasts even after death?

3.What were the main teachings of Mahavira?

Answer:

The following are the main teachings of Mahavira:

1. Those who wish to know the truth must leave their home.
2. Those who are on the path of truth must adhere to the principles of Ahimsa (Non-violence) very strictly.
3. One must not hurt or kill any other living being, as life is dear to all.

4.Why do you think Anagha's mother wanted her to know the story of the Buddha?

Answer:

Anagha was travelling to Varanasi on a school trip. Sarnath is a place in Varanasi where Buddha taught for the first time after

attaining enlightenment in Bodh Gaya. The story and message of Buddha were inspiring, and hence Anagha's mother wanted her to know the story of Buddha.

5.Do you think it would have been easy for slaves to join the Sangha? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer:

Everyone except men had to take permission from their master before joining the Sangha. Children had to take permission from their masters, servants had to take permission from the kings, the wives from their husbands and the slaves from their masters.

It wouldn't have been easy for the slaves to join the sangha because:

1. Slaves had little to no rights.
2. It was not necessary that a slave would get a kind master
3. Since society, in general, depended on slaves to do their tasks for them, there was no incentive for masters to give permission for their slaves to join the Sangha.

6.Make a list of at least five ideas and questions mentioned in this lesson. Choose three from the list and discuss why you think they are important even today.

Answer: The ideas and questions mentioned in the chapter are the

following:

Questions:

1. Is there a life after death?
2. What was Buddha trying to teach Kisagotami?
3. How did the beggar convince sages to share food with them?

Ideas:

4. One should follow the principle of ahimsa.
5. One should renounce worldly pleasure in search of the truth.

7. Describe the key teachings of the Buddha regarding suffering and cravings.

Answer:

The Buddha taught that life is filled with suffering caused by cravings and desires. He referred to this constant craving as "thirst" or "tanha." He emphasized that moderation in everything could remove this craving.

8. What was the significance of Sarnath in the life of the Buddha?

Answer:

Sarnath was where the Buddha taught for the first time after attaining enlightenment at Bodh Gaya. It has the Buddha teachings with others.

9.Describe the teachings of the Buddha regarding suffering and the way to overcome it.

Answer:

The Buddha taught that life is full of suffering and unhappiness, mainly caused by cravings and desires. This constant craving, known as thirst or tanha, leads to dissatisfaction even when desires are fulfilled. To overcome suffering, the Buddha advocated moderation in all aspects of life. Additionally, he emphasized kindness, respect for all living beings, and the importance of karma – the consequences of one's actions affecting both the present and future lives.

10.Explain the story of Kisagotami and analyze the lesson the Buddha was trying to convey through this story.

Answer:

Kisagotami's story involves her seeking a solution from the Buddha to bring her dead child back to life. The Buddha asks her to bring a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one has died.

4marks:

1.Describe the journey of Siddhartha, also known as Gautama, towards enlightenment.

Answer:

Siddhartha, a prince who later became the Buddha, embarked on a spiritual quest to understand the nature of suffering. He renounced his princely life, practiced asceticism, and finally attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree in Bodh Gaya, Bihar. This marked the beginning of his teachings on the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path.

2.Explain the core teachings of the Buddha, focusing on the concepts of suffering, cravings, and moderation.

Answer:

The Buddha's core teachings revolved around the Four Noble Truths. He emphasized that life is filled with suffering (dukkha), primarily caused by cravings and desires (tanha). To overcome suffering, one must follow the path of moderation in all aspects of life. By understanding and eliminating cravings, individuals can attain liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

3.Differentiate between Theravada Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism, highlighting key features of each.

Answer:

Theravada Buddhism, prevalent in Southeast Asia, adheres closely to the original teachings of the Buddha. It emphasizes individual enlightenment and follows the Pali Canon. In contrast, Mahayana Buddhism, found in East Asia, introduced new concepts like Bodhisattvas—enlightened beings who choose to remain in the world to help others. Mahayana texts were composed in Sanskrit, and it became more popular in Central Asia and beyond.

4.Discuss the role of the sangha in Buddhism and its impact on the spread of the Buddha's teachings.

Answer:

The sangha refers to the monastic community of Buddhist monks (bhikkhus) and nuns (bhikkhunis). They played a crucial role in preserving and spreading the Buddha's teachings. By living simple lives and traveling to different regions, the sangha became a vehicle for the dissemination of Buddhist doctrines. Monasteries, such as viharas, provided centers for learning and meditation.

5.Explain the significance of Sarnath in the life of the Buddha and the propagation of Buddhism.

Answer:

Sarnath holds importance as the place where the Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment. The teachings at Sarnath, known as the Dharmachakra Pravartana Sutra, focused on the Four Noble Truths. This event marked the beginning of the Buddha's public preaching and the spread of Buddhism.

6.Elaborate on the concept of karma as taught by the Buddha and its implications on individual lives.

Answer:

According to the Buddha, karma refers to the results of one's actions, whether good or bad, affecting individuals in this life and the next. He emphasized the importance of ethical conduct and the consequences of actions. The doctrine of karma underscores the idea that individuals shape their destinies through their deeds and intentions.

7.Describe the characteristics of the Upanishads and their contribution to philosophical thought in ancient India.

Answer:

The Upanishads, part of the later Vedic texts, were philosophical dialogues between teachers and students. These texts explored

profound questions about life, death, and the nature of reality.

Upanishadic thinkers discussed concepts such as atman (individual soul) and brahman (universal soul). Their ideas laid the foundation for various schools of Indian philosophy, contributing significantly to the intellectual landscape of ancient India.

7marks:

1.Discuss the life of Siddhartha Gautama before his enlightenment, highlighting key events that led to his spiritual quest.

Answer:

Siddhartha Gautama, born into the Sakya clan as a prince in Lumbini, experienced a life of opulence and privilege. However, his sheltered existence took a transformative turn when, during an outing, he witnessed the harsh realities of life — encountering an old man, a sick person, and a corpse. Deeply moved by the inevitability of suffering and death, Siddhartha decided to explore the nature of existence. At the age of 29, he renounced his princely life, leaving behind his family and palace, in search of enlightenment. His spiritual quest led him to various ascetic practices and intense meditation, culminating in his enlightenment under the Bodhi tree in Bodh Gaya.

2.Elaborate on the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path in Buddhism. How do these teachings address the human condition?

Answer:

The Four Noble Truths, a foundational concept in Buddhism, provide a comprehensive understanding of human suffering and the path to

liberation. Firstly, the truth of suffering (dukkha) acknowledges the pervasive nature of dissatisfaction and pain in human existence. Secondly, the truth of the cause of suffering identifies craving (tanha) as the root of all suffering. Thirdly, the truth of the end of suffering reveals that cessation is attainable. Lastly, the truth of the path to the end of suffering introduces the Eightfold Path.

The Eightfold Path comprises right understanding, intention, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, and concentration. Each step is interconnected, emphasizing ethical conduct, mental discipline, and wisdom. By following the Eightfold Path, individuals address the root causes of suffering, leading to the cessation of craving and, consequently, the end of suffering. These teachings provide a holistic framework for transforming one's life and achieving enlightenment.

3.Compare and contrast the roles of Mahavira and the Buddha in shaping Jainism and Buddhism, respectively. Highlight their teachings and impact on society.

Answer:

Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara, and Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, were contemporaries who founded Jainism and Buddhism, respectively. Both emerged in ancient India during a period of intense philosophical inquiry.

Mahavira, born into a royal family, renounced his princely life at the age of 30 and spent 12 years in deep meditation to attain enlightenment. His teachings, compiled in the Jain Agamas, emphasize non-violence (ahimsa), truth (satya), non-attachment, and asceticism. Mahavira's impact on society was profound, particularly among the trading communities. The Jain sangha, like the Buddhist sangha, provided a structured way of life for followers.

Siddhartha Gautama, born a prince, renounced his princely life to seek enlightenment. His teachings, encapsulated in the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path, revolve around understanding and overcoming suffering. The Buddha's impact extended across societal strata, attracting followers from various backgrounds. The sangha, established by the Buddha, became a significant institution in disseminating his teachings.

While both Mahavira and the Buddha advocated non-violence and a path to spiritual liberation, their emphasis on asceticism and the role of the sangha differed. Mahavira's teachings were more rigid in terms of ascetic practices, while the Buddha adopted a middle path, rejecting extreme asceticism.

4. Analyze the significance of pilgrimage in Buddhism, focusing on the experiences of Chinese pilgrims like Xuan Zang. How did

pilgrimage contribute to the spread of Buddhism?

Answer:

Pilgrimage holds immense significance in Buddhism as it allows followers to visit sacred sites associated with the life of the Buddha and gain spiritual merit. Chinese pilgrims like Xuan Zang undertook perilous journeys to India, enduring hardships to visit places of Buddhist significance.

Xuan Zang, in the 7th century, traveled to Nalanda, a renowned Buddhist monastery, to study Buddhist philosophy. His meticulous records detailed the monastic life, the rigorous intellectual environment, and the strict rules followed in Nalanda. This information not only enriched his understanding but also became valuable historical documentation.

Pilgrimage contributed to the spread of Buddhism by fostering cultural exchange and creating a sense of unity among Buddhists. Pilgrims brought back relics, scriptures, and knowledge, influencing the development of Buddhism in their homelands. The act of pilgrimage became a powerful expression of devotion and commitment, reinforcing the universal appeal of Buddhism.

5.Examine the concept of the sangha in Buddhism, highlighting its structure, roles, and significance in the dissemination of the Buddha's teachings.

Answer:

The sangha, a central institution in Buddhism, played a pivotal role in preserving and propagating the teachings of the Buddha. Comprising bhikkhus (monks) and bhikkhunis (nuns), the sangha followed a structured way of life.

The sangha's structure was hierarchical, with experienced members guiding novices. Rules and discipline were codified in the Vinaya Pitaka, ensuring ethical conduct and harmony within the sangha. The sangha provided a supportive environment for meditation, study, and communal living.

Bhikkhus and bhikkhunis engaged in alms rounds, receiving food from lay supporters, fostering a reciprocal relationship. This interaction facilitated the exchange of teachings between the sangha and the laity. The sangha also served as a forum for conflict resolution, emphasizing communal harmony.

The sangha's significance extended beyond monastic life. It played a crucial role in the spread of Buddhism by acting as a conduit for the transmission of teachings. Monasteries, known as viharas, became centers of learning, where monks engaged in intellectual pursuits and

shared their knowledge with the wider community. The sangha, through its collective endeavors, contributed significantly to the enduring legacy of Buddhism.

6.Evaluate the impact of Jainism on ancient Indian society, focusing on its teachings, followers, and social influence.

Answer:

Jainism, founded by Mahavira, left a profound impact on ancient Indian society, influencing not only religious practices but also social ethics and individual conduct.

Mahavira's teachings emphasized the principle of ahimsa (non-violence), truth, non-attachment, and asceticism. These principles resonated with followers, known as Jainas, who led lives of extreme simplicity, practicing non-violence even towards small organisms. The Jain sangha, much like its Buddhist counterpart, provided a structured community for followers.

The impact of Jainism extended to social ethics, as Jainas advocated charity, compassion, and ethical business practices. Merchants, in particular, were drawn to Jainism, and the community played a crucial role in trade and commerce. Jainas contributed significantly to Indian art and architecture, with the construction of temples and the creation of intricate artwork.

Despite its relatively smaller following compared to other contemporary religions, Jainism's emphasis on ethics, non-violence, and simplicity left an enduring mark on Indian society, influencing individuals and communities in their pursuit of a virtuous life.

7.Explore the role of the Upanishads in shaping philosophical thought in ancient India. Discuss key concepts, thinkers, and their contributions to the understanding of the self and the universe.

Answer:

The Upanishads, a collection of philosophical texts, played a pivotal role in shaping the intellectual landscape of ancient India. Emerging around the same time as Jainism and Buddhism, the Upanishads sought to answer profound questions about existence and reality.

Key concepts in the Upanishads include the ideas of atman (individual soul) and brahman (universal soul). Thinkers like Gargi, Apala, Ghosha, and Maitreyi engaged in dialogues exploring the relationship between the individual and the cosmos. Satyakama Jabala, an exception from humble origins, exemplified the inclusivity of Upanishadic thought.

The Upanishads were composed in simple, accessible language (Prakrit), making these profound philosophical ideas available to a

wider audience. The focus on dialogue and individual contemplation encouraged independent thinking. The ideas of the Upanishads laid the groundwork for later philosophical systems like Vedanta and influenced the development of Indian thought.

Write whether true or false:

- a. The Buddha encouraged animal sacrifices**
- b. Sarnath is important because it was the place where the Buddha taught for the first time**
- c. The Buddha taught that Karma has no effect on our lives**
- d. The Buddha attained enlightenment at Bodh Gaya**
- e. Upanishadic thinkers believed that atman and Brahman were ultimately one**

Answer:

a) False

Buddha professed kindness to animals. He discouraged the practice of sacrificing animals.

(b) True

Sarnath is where Buddha taught for the first time after enlightenment. He attained enlightenment at Bodh Gaya.

(c) False

Karma means action or the work we do. Buddha believed that Karma affects our current and next lives.

(d) True

Buddha did meditation for several days under a Peepal (Banyan) tree in Bodh Gaya, where he attained enlightenment.

(e) True

Atman means individual soul, whereas Brahman means universal soul. Those who followed the Upanishads believed that Atman and Brahman were the same.

Fill in the blanks:

1.The Buddha attained _____ under the Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya.

Answer:

Enlightenment

2. Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara, founded the religious tradition of _____.

Answer:

Jainism

3. The Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path are fundamental teachings in _____.

Answer:

Buddhism

4. The _____ is an association of those who left their homes in Buddhism.

Answer:

Sangha

5. Xuan Zang, a Chinese pilgrim, studied in the renowned Buddhist monastery of _____.

Answer:

Nalanda

6. The Upanishads explored concepts like _____ and _____ to understand the self and the universe.

Answer:

Atman, Brahman

7. The teachings of Mahavira, including _____ and _____, attracted followers to Jainism.

Answer:

Ahimsa, Non-attachment

8. The sangha lived in structures known as _____, which were shelters for monks and nuns.

Answer:

Viharas

9. Panini, a renowned scholar, prepared a grammar for the _____ language.

Answer:

Sanskrit

10. The system of _____ allowed individuals to spend different stages of their lives in meditation.

Answer:

Ashramas

Multiple choice:

1. Who was the founder of Buddhism?

A) Mahavira

B) Siddhartha Gautama

C) Panini

D) Xuan Zang

Answer:

B) Siddhartha Gautama

2. What is the fundamental teaching in Jainism emphasizing non-violence?

A) Karma

B) Ahimsa

C) Dharma

D) Yoga

Answer:

B) Ahimsa

3. Where did the Buddha attain enlightenment?

A) Nalanda

B) Sarnath

C) Varanasi

D) Bodh Gaya

Answer:

D) Bodh Gaya

4. What are the Four Noble Truths associated with?

A) Jainism

B) Hinduism

C) Buddhism

D) Sikhism

Answer:

C) Buddhism

5. Which language did Panini prepare a grammar for?

A) Pali

B) Prakrit

C) Sanskrit

D) Magadhi

Answer:

C) Sanskrit

6. The Upanishads explored the concepts of:

A) Karma and Dharma

B) Atman and Brahman

C) Ahimsa and Yoga

D) Varna and Ashrama

Answer:

B) Atman and Brahman

7. What is the name of the association of those who left their homes in Buddhism?

A) Vihara

B) Ashrama

C) Sangha

D) Jati

Answer:

C) Sangha

8. Which Chinese pilgrim studied in the famous Buddhist monastery of Nalanda?

- A) Fa Xian**
- B) Xuan Zang**
- C) I-Qing**
- D) Bodhidharma**

Answer:

- B) Xuan Zang**

9. What is the religious tradition founded by Mahavira?

- A) Buddhism**
- B) Hinduism**
- C) Jainism**
- D) Sikhism**

Answer:

- C) Jainism**

10. The system of ashramas includes stages of life such as:

- A) Birth, growth, maturity, old age**
- B) Childhood, adolescence, adulthood, old age**
- C) Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, Sannyasa**
- D) Karma, Bhakti, Jnana, Raja**

Answer: C) Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, Sannyasa

Summary:

The provided text discusses various aspects of ancient Indian history, focusing on the life and teachings of the Buddha, the emergence of different philosophical ideas, and the spread of Jainism. Here's a summary: The narrative begins with Anagha's school trip, where her mother advises the teacher to share the story of the Buddha and visit Sarnath. The text delves into the historical context, presenting Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, who lived in a time of societal changes and sought enlightenment.

The Buddha's teachings emphasize the nature of suffering and the importance of moderation to alleviate cravings. The text highlights his emphasis on kindness, respect for life, and the concept of karma. The Buddha's message, conveyed in the language of the common people (Prakrit), encouraged independent thinking.

The story of Kisagotami illustrates a poignant lesson about acceptance of death. The text then introduces the Upanishads, which explored philosophical questions, including the concepts of atman and brahman.