



1. Match the following:

The Buddha	namghar
Shankaradeva	worship of Vishnu
Nizamuddin Auliya	questioned social differences
Nayanars	Sufi saint
Alvars	worship of Shiva

Answer:

The Buddha	questioned social differences
Shankaradeva	namghar
Nizamuddin Auliya	Sufi saint
Nayanars	worship of Shiva
Alvars	worship of Vishnu

2. Fill in the blanks:

- Shankara was an advocate of.....
- Ramanuja was influenced by the
- , and were advocates of Virashaivism.
- was an important centre of the Bhakti tradition in Maharashtra.

Answer: (a) Advaita

(b) Alvars

(c) Basavanna, Allama Prabhu, Akkamahadevi

(d) Pandharpur

3. Describe the beliefs and practices of the Nathpanthis, Siddhas and Yogis.

Answer:

- They advocated renunciation of the world.
- They believed that the path to salvation lay in meditation on the formless God and the realisation of oneness with it.
- To achieve this they advocated intense training of the mind and body through practices like yogasanas, breathing exercises and meditation.
- They did not believe in the ritual and oilier aspects of conventional religion and the social order.

4. What were the major ideas expressed by Kabir? How did he express these?

Answer: The major ideas expressed by Kabir include:

- Rejection of major religious traditions.
- Criticism of all forms of external worship of both Brahmanical Hinduism and Islam.
- Criticism of priestly classes and caste system.
- Belief in a formless Supreme God.
- Emphasis on Bhakti or devotion to achieve salvation.

Kabir expressed his ideas in a vast collection of verses known as sakhis and pads. These are said to have been composed by him and sung by wandering bhajan singers.

5. What were the major beliefs and practices of the Sufis?

Answer:

- Sufis were Muslim mystics. They rejected outward religiosity and gave emphasis on love and devotion to God. They inspired people to be compassionate towards all fellow human beings.
- They rejected idol worship and considerably simplified rituals of worship into collective prayers.
- They believed that the heart can be trained to look at the world in a different way.
- They developed elaborate methods of training using zikr, meaning chanting of a name or sacred formula, contemplation, sama i.e. singing, raqs, i.e. dancing, discussion of parables, breath control etc. under the guidance of a master called pir.

6. Why do you think many teachers rejected prevalent religious beliefs and practices?

Answer: Many teachers rejected prevalent religious beliefs and practices because these were based on social differences, excess ritualism and outward display piety.

7. What were the major teachings of Baba Guru Nanak?

Answer:

- Baba Guru Nanak emphasised the importance of the worship of one God.
- He insisted that caste, creed or gender was irrelevant for attaining liberation. His idea of liberation was based on the pursuit of active life with a strong sense of social commitment.
- He used the terms nam, dan and isnan for the essence of his teaching, which actually meant right worship, welfare of others and purity of conduct.
- He gave importance to right-belief and worship, honest living and helping others.
- Guru Nanak, thus, promoted the idea of equality.

8. For either the Virashaivas or the saints of Maharashtra, discuss their attitude towards caste.

Answer: Attitude of the Virashaivas towards caste :

They believed in the equality of all human beings. They were against Brahmanical ideas about caste and the treatment of women. They wished for a society where people of all backgrounds could live in harmony without any feelings of high and low, rich and poor.

9. Why do you think ordinary people preserved the memory of Mirabai?

Answer: Mirabai was a Rajput princess married into the royal family of Mewar. But she had no interest in the worldly affair. She was an ardent devotee of Krishna and wanted to devote her time to

the worship of her lord. She had no belief in princely status and other norms of high class society. Her devotion to her deity was supreme. Hence, she left the royal palace and began to lead a simple life with ordinary people.

10. Find out whether in your neighbourhood there are any dargahs, gurudwaras or temples associated with saints of the Bhakti tradition in your neighbourhood. Visit any one of these and describe what you see and hear.

Answer: Students are suggested to do this exercise themselves.

11. For any of the saint-poets whose compositions have been included in this chapter, find out more about their works, noting down other poems. Find out whether these are sung, how they are sung, and what the poets wrote about

Answer: For self attempt.

12. There are several saint-poets whose names have been mentioned but their works have not been included in the chapter. Find out more about the language in which they composed, whether their compositions were sung and what their compositions were about.

Answer: For self attempt.

VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What did the Puranic stories consist of? [V. Imp.]

Answer: The Puranic stories consisted of local myths and legends

2. Who were the Pulaiyar and the Panars?

Answer: They were considered untouchables

3. How many Alvars were there?

Answer: There were 12 Alvars.

4. Name the two sets of compilations of Nayanar's songs.

Answer: Tevaram and Tiruvacakam.

5. Name the set of compilation of Alvars' songs.

Answer: Divya Prabandham.

6. What did Ramanuja propound?

Answer: He propounded the doctrine of Vishishtadvaita or qualified oneness in that the soul even when united with the Supreme God remained distinct.

7. What is abhang?

Answer: It is a Marathi devotional hymn.

8. Name any two saints of Maharashtra.

Answer: Namdev and Tukaram

9. Who were Sufis?

Answer: Sufis were Muslim mystics.

10. Name any two great Sufis of Central Asia.

Answer: Ghazzali and Rumi.

11. What are namghars? [Imp.]

Answer: They are houses of recitation and prayer, a practice that continues even today.

12. What was known as dharmshal?

Answer: Baba Guru Nanak created a sacred place which was known

as dharmsal. It is now known as Gurudwara.

13. To whom did Baba Guru Nanak appoint as his successor?

Answer: Guru Nanak appointed Guru Angad, one of his followers, as his successor.

14. What is Guru Granth Sahib?

Answer: Guru Granth Sahib is the holy scripture of the Sikhs.

15. Why did the Mughal emperor Jahangir order the execution of Guru Aijan in 1606?

Answer: The Mughal emperor Jahangir looked upon the Sikh community as a potential threat and therefore he ordered the execution of Guru Aijan.

16. What did the terms 'nam', 'dan' and 'isnān' mean? [V. Imp.]

Answer: The terms nam, dan and isnān meant right worship, welfare of others and purity of conduct.

17. Who compiled the compositions of Baba Guru Nanak?

Answer: Guru Angad compiled the compositions of Baba Guru Nanak.

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