



SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What type of structures were built by kings and their officers between the eighth and the eighteenth centuries?

Answer: During this period kings and their officers built two kinds of structures

(A) Forts, palaces, garden residences and tombs

(B) Structures meant for public activity including temples, mosques, tanks, wells, caravanserais and bazaars.

2. Write a short note on the Kandariya Mahadeva temple.

Answer: The Kandariya Mahadeva temple dedicated to Shiva was constructed in 999 by the king Dhangadeva of the Chandela dynasty. The temple had an ornamented gateway that led to an entrance. It had a main hall known as mahamandapa where dances were performed. The image of the chief deity was kept in the main Shrine known as garbhagriha. This was the place for ritual worship where only the king and his kith and kin gathered.

3. Throw light on how the construction of the Rajarajeshvara temple was a very difficult task. [V. Imp.]

Answer: The Rajarajeshvara temple was built in the early 11th century. It had the tallest shikhara amongst temples of its time. Its construction was a very difficult task. There were no cranes in those days. The 90 tonne stone for the top of the shikhara was too heavy to lift manually. Hence, the architects built an inclined path to the top of the temple, placed the boulder on rollers and rolled it all the way to the top. The path started more than 4 km away so that it would not be too steep. This was dismantled after the temple was built.

4. In what ways do you think the policies of Rajendra I and Mahmud of Ghazni were a product of their time? How were the actions of the two rulers different? [Imp.]

Answer: King Rajendra I looted the temples of the defeated rulers and seized prized statues from them. He used these statues in decoration of the Shiva temple, that he built in his capital in the early 11th century.

Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni was a contemporary of Rajendra I. He destroyed and looted the temples of defeated kings in order to win credit as a great hero of Islam. Thus, King Rajendra I constructed temple while Mahmud of Ghazni destroyed it. In this way, their actions were very much different.

5. Write a brief note on the chahar bagh built by the Mughal rulers.

Answer: The Mughal emperors were very much interested in literature, art and architecture. Babur, in his autobiography, described his interest in planning and laying out formal gardens, placed within rectangular walled enclosures and divided into four quarters by artificial channels. These gardens were called chahar bagh, four gardens, because of their symmetrical division into quarters. Beginning with Akbar, some of the most beautiful chahar

baghs were constructed by Jahangir and Shah Jahan in Kashmir, Agra and Delhi.

6. When was Humayun's tomb built? What are its special features?

Answer: Humayun's tomb was, built between 1562 and 1571. Its main features are:

- The central towering dome and the tall gateway known as pishtaq became important aspects of Mughal architecture. This tomb architecture was first visible in Humayun's tomb.
- The tomb was placed in the centre of a huge formal chahar bagh and built in the tradition known as 'eight paradises' or hasht bihisht—a central hall surrounded by eight rooms.
- The building was constructed with red sandstone, edge with white marble.

7. Give an account of Shah Jahan's audience halls. [Imp.]

Answer: Shah Jahan's audience halls were specially constructed to resemble a mosque.

The pedestal on which his throne was placed was frequently described as the qibla, the direction faced by Muslims at prayer, since everybody faced that direction when court was in session. The idea of the king as a representative of God on earth was suggested by these architectural features.

The construction of Shah Jahan's audience hall aimed to communicate that the king's justice would treat the high and the low as equals creating a world where all could live together in harmony.

8. Who were involved in the building of the Qutb Minor?

Answer: The Qutb Minar is five storeys high. The first floor was constructed by Qutbuddin Aybak and the rest by Iltutmish around 1229. Over the years it was damaged by lightning and earthquakes and repaired by Alauddin Khalji, Muhammad Tughluq, Firuz Shah Tughluq and Ibrahim Lodi.

9. How can you say that Mughal rulers adapted regional architectural styles in the construction of their buildings? Explain with examples.

Answer: Mughal rulers were skilled in adapting regional architectural styles in the construction of their buildings. For example :

- In Bengal, the local rulers had developed a roof that was designed to resemble a thatched hut. The Mughals liked this 'Bangla dome' and used it in their architecture.

In Akbar's capital at Fatehpur Sikri many of the buildings show the influence of the architectural styles of Gujarat and Malwa.

10. Describe how Shah Jahan adapted the riverfront garden in the layout of the Taj Mahal.

Answer: The Taj Mahal is the grandest architectural accomplishment of Shah Jahan's reign. He adapted the river-front garden in its layout. Here, the white marble mausoleum was placed on a terrace by the edge of the river and the garden was to its south. Shah Jahan developed this architectural form as a means to control the access that nobles had to the river.

11. What is the main feature of Shah Jahan's new city of Shahjahanabad? [Imp.]

Answer: Shah Jahan constructed a new city namely Shahjahanabad in Delhi. In this city, the imperial palace commanded the river-front. Only specially favoured nobles like his oldest son Dara Shukoh were given access to the river. All others

had to construct their homes in the city away from the River Yamuna.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1 Compare the reasons why temples were built and destroyed?[V. Imp.]

Answer: Kings built temples to show their devotion to God and their power and wealth. King Rajarajeshvara built Rajarajeshvara temple for the worship of his god, Rajarajeshvaram. Here, the names of the king and the god appear to be similar. The king took the god's name because it was auspicious and he wanted to appear like a god. The largest temples were usually built by kings while the other, lesser deities in the temples were gods and goddesses of the allies and subordinates of the ruler. The temple was a miniature model of the world ruled by the king and his allies. As they worshipped the deities together in the royal temples, it seemed as if they brought the just rule of the gods on earth. Kings built temples but when they attacked one another's kingdoms they often targeted these buildings. In the early 9th century when the Pandyan King Shrimara Shrivallabha invaded Sri Lanka and defeated the King Sena I he seized all the valuables such as the statue of the Buddha made entirely of gold and other golden images from various monasteries. King Sena II took revenge of this. He invaded Madurai, the capital of the Pandyas in order to restore the gold statue of the Buddha. In the same way when in the early 11th century the Chola King Rajendra I built a Shiva temple in his capital. He filled it with prized statues seized from defeated rulers. Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni not only seized the valuables from the temples but also destroyed them. He did it in order to win credit as a great hero of Islam. Thus, rulers displayed their political might and military success by attacking and looting the places of worship of defeated rulers.

***** END *****