

ST. ANDREWS SCOTS SR. SEC. SCHOOL 9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj Delhi-110092

CLASS: VI	SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOPIC: HISTORY	CH-7
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2026-27

THEME C: OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND KNOWLEDGE

TRADITIONS

INDIA'S CULTURAL ROOTS

Q1. Tick (✓) the correct option:

1. The antiquity of the Vedas goes back to
5000 BCE
2. Which of the following is not Vedic literature **Mahabharat**
3. Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment after meditating under which of the following trees?
Pipal
4. Most of the ideas and philosophies associated with Jainism were transmitted in the
7th century BCE
5. Which among the following is presently not a major centre of Jainism?
Gujarat

Q2. Write 'T' for True and 'F' for False:

1. Rig Veda is the most ancient of all the four Vedas. **True**
2. The majority of the Upanishads were written between the 8th and 4th century BCE. **True**
3. Right knowledge is one of the elements of the Buddha's Eightfold Path. **False**

4. Jainism teaches that there exists only one material world, the one in which we live, so there cannot be life after death. **False**
5. There has been a free exchange of deities, legends, rituals and concepts among tribal and folk traditions and other major belief systems. **True**

Q3. Answer the following questions in brief:

1. Describe the different units of Vedic society.
 - The family or kula was headed by the eldest male member, called the grihapati. He lived with his children and grandchildren in a joint family.
 - A village or grama was formed by a group of kulas and several gramas formed a clan.
 - A tribe or jana was led by a king or chief whose selection was based on his bravery.
2. What were the major occupations during the Vedic period?

The major occupations during the Vedic period are cattle rearing and agriculture.
3. What are Upanishads and what is their content?

The meaning of Upanishads is to sit at the feet of the Guru to receive the teachings.

They discuss doctrines like creation of humans, creation of the world, ideal human conduct, meditation, the practice of yoga, truths about life and death and karma. However, their major philosophies are 'bhakti' or devotion and 'upasana' or worship.
4. Explain how a person can attain nirvāṇa according to Mahāvīra.

According to Mahavira, one could attain nirvāṇa by practising the triratna or three jewels, namely right knowledge, right action and right faith.

Q4. Answer the following questions in detail:

1. How did people worship during the Vedic period and what changes were observed as time passed?

They worshipped Surya (the Sun); Indra, the god of the thunder; Agni, the fire god; Prithvi, the goddess of Earth; and Varuna, god of rain.

As time passed, when the Vedic people spread throughout northern India, they began worshipping goddesses and gods, such as Saraswati, Lakshmi, Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu.

2. Discuss the teachings of the Buddha in detail.

The major teachings of the Buddha include the Eightfold Path (Astāngika Mārga) and the Four Noble Truths.

The Eight-Fold Path includes:

- Right belief
- Right thought
- Right action
- Right speech
- Right means of livelihood
- Right meditation
- Right memory
- Right effort

The Four Noble Truths include:

- Life is full of suffering.
- The main cause of this suffering is craving or desire.
- Eliminating such wants and desires will end suffering
- To end desire and suffering, one must follow the Eightfold Path

3. Explain the major teachings of Mahavira.

He taught his followers to practise and believe in:

- Honesty
- Ahimsa or absolute non-violence towards every bird, animal, plant and insect
- Truthfulness
- Kindness