

## Chapter 4

### Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a. The Rigveda was compiled between 500 and 100 BCE.
- b. The Rigveda consists of hymns in praise of a variety of deities.
- c. The hymns from the Rigveda were chanted when sacrifices were performed.

- 1. a, b and c
- 2. a and b
- 3. b and c
- 4. a and c

Ans. b and c.

2. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

- a. Buddha taught through detailed sermons.
- b. The compilation of His teachings is known as Tripitaka.
- c. Buddha travelled to regions as far off as Sri Lanka to sermonise.

- 1. only a
- 2. only b
- 3. only c
- 4. a and b

Ans. a and b.

3. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a. Buddhist texts mention as many as 64 sects or schools of thought.
- b. Debates about the validity of the philosophy or the way these sects understood the world, took place in the kutagarashalas in villages.
- c. Many teachers of these sects such as Mahavira and Buddha questioned the authority of the Vedas.

- 1. a, b and c
- 2. a and b
- 3. b and c
- 4. a and c

Ans. a, b and c

4. Which of the following texts chronicles the regional histories of Buddhism?

- 1. Mahavamsa
- 2. Abhidhamma Pitaka

3. Vinaya Pitaka

4. Sutta Pitaka

Ans. Mahavamsa

5. Tirthankaras are those who guide men and women across the river of existence. Mahavira was preceded by

1. none

2. 10 tirthankaras

3. 13 tirthankaras

4. 23 tirthankaras

Ans. 23 tirthankaras

6. The oldest texts of Buddhism are in which of the following languages?

a. Pali

b. Sanskrit

c. Prakrit

d. Chinese

1. a, b, c and d

2. a, b and c

3. a, b and d

4. a and c

Ans: a and c

7. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

a. Vardhamana came to be known as Mahavira in the sixth century BCE.

b. He belonged to Sakya clan.

c. Jain scholars produced a wealth of literature in Pali and Sanskrit.

1. a, b and c

2. a and b

3. b and c

4. a and c

Ans: a, b and c

### **Very Short Answer Questions-**

**1. Which Buddhist text includes rules and regulations for those who joined the sangha?**

ANS.-Vinay pitak

**2. What are the two branches of Buddhism?**

Hinayana and Mahayana

**3.Name any two Stupas in India .**

Sanchi ,Sarnath and Bharhut .

**4. What did the followers of old tradition of Buddhism called themselves?**

Theravadins

**5.In which year was Sanchi declared a world heritage site ?**

1989

**Short Answer questions-**

**1. Mention four places associated with the life of the Buddha.**

**Ans.1.** Lumbini (birthplace of the Buddha)

2. Kapilvastu (the Buddha was brought up here)

3. Bodh Gaya (the Buddha attained enlightenment here)

4. Sarnath- (the Buddha delivered his first religious discourse here).

**2. What do you mean by “Dharma Chakra Pravartana”?**

**Ans.** Dharma Chakra Pravartana means ‘sitting in motion the wheel of Dharma’. The first religious discourse or sermon delivered by Mahatma Buddha after attaining enlightenment at Mrigdav or Deer Park of Sarnath near Varanasi, is known as ‘Maha chakra Pravartana’.

### **3 Marks Questions**

**1. Mention the teachings of Mahatma Buddha?**

**Ans.** According to Buddhist philosophy the world is transient (anicca) and constantly changing it is also soulless (anatta) as there is nothing permanent or eternal in it.

Within this transient world, sorrow is intrinsic to human existence. It is by following the path of moderation between severe penance and self -indulgence that human beings can rise above these worldly troubles. The Buddha regarded the social world as the creation of humans rather than of divine origin. According to Buddhist tradition, his last words to his followers were: “Be lamps unto yourselves as all of you must work out your own liberation”.

**2. How was Buddha's presence shown through symbols? Give two examples.**

Answer: Examples to show Buddha's presence shown through symbols are:

- The empty seat indicated the meditation of the Buddha.
- The stupas represented the mahaparinibbana of the Buddha

**3. Name the two types of sources through which we come to know about Buddha and his teachings.**

Answer: Two sources through which we come to know about Buddha and his teachings are as follows:

- Various Buddhist texts like Tripitakas or three baskets and the Jataka stories.
- Various pillar inscriptions and rock edicts.

**4. Describe the teachings of the Buddha.**

or

**Describe how Buddha's teachings have been reconstructed from the stories of Sutta Pitaka?**

or

**Write down the eternal truth of Buddhism.**

or

**Explain briefly the teachings of Buddha.**

Answer: The teachings of Buddha are as follows:

- The world is transient (anicca) and constantly changing. It is also soulless as there is nothing permanent or eternal in it.
- Within this transient world, sorrow (dukkha) is intrinsic to human existence.
- By following the path of moderation between severe penance and self-indulgence, human beings can use above these worldly pleasures.
- He advised kings and gahapatis to be humane and ethical. Buddha regarded the social world as the creation of humans rather than of divine origin.
- He emphasised individual agency and righteous action as the means to escape from the cycle of rebirth and attain self-realisation and nibbana (literally means the extinguishing of ego and desire).  
This ends the cycle of suffering for those who renounced the world.
- The words to his followers were "Be lamps into yourselves as all of you must work out your own liberation."

**5. "The mid first millennium BCE is often regarded as a major turning point in the world history." Justify.**

Answer:

The mid first millennium BCE is often regarded as a major turning point in world history because of the following facts:

- **Emergence of Thinkers:** It saw the emergence of thinkers such as Zarathustra in Iran, Kong Zi in China, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle in Greece and Mahavira and Gautam Buddha among others in India.
- **Understanding of the Mysteries of Existence:** Thinkers tried to understand the mysteries of existence and the relationship between human beings and the cosmic order.
- **Development of New Kingdoms and Cities:** It was the time when new kingdoms and cities were developing.
- **Change in Social and Economic Life:** Social and economic life were changing in a variety of ways, e.g. in the Ganga valley growth of town, new crafts and trade took place.
- **New Agricultural Technology:** There was extension of agriculture due to occupation of new lands, application of new techniques and use of iron tools.

### **Source Based Questions**

#### **Question 1** **Buddhism in Practice:**

This is an excerpt from the Sutta Pitaka, and contains the advice given by the Buddha to a wealthy householder named Sigala.

In five ways should a master look after his servants and employees... by assigning them work according to their strength, by supplying them with food and wages, by tending them in sickness; by sharing delicacies with them and by granting leave at times ...

In five ways should the clansmen look after the needs of Samanas (those who have renounced the world) and Brahmanas; by affection in act and speech and mind, by keeping open house to them and supplying their worldly needs.

There are similar instructions to Sigala about how to behave with his parents, teacher and wife.

**1. In what ways should a master look after his servants and employees?**

**or**

**What advice was given by Buddha to Sigala regarding relationship between a master and his servants and employees?**

**Ans.** The advice given by Buddha to Sigala regarding relationship between a master and his servants and employees are:

- A master should look after his servants and employees in five ways.
- He should assign them work according to their strength, by supplying them with food and wages.

- A master should tend them in sickness, by sharing delicacies with them and by granting leave at times.

## **2. In what ways should the clansmen look after the needs of Samanas?**

**or**

**List the instructions given by Buddha to the clansmen for Samanas and Brahmanas.**

Ans. The instructions given by Buddha to the clansmen for Samanas and Brahmanas are:

- The clansmen should look after the needs of Samanas (those who have renounced the world) and Brahmanas in five ways.
- The clansmen should have affection in act and speech and mind by keeping open to house.
- The clansmen should also fulfil the worldly needs of Samanas and Brahmanas.

## **3. Explain the main aspects of Buddhist philosophy.**

**or**

**According to you what suggestion Buddha would have advocated regarding parents and teachers?**

Answer. . The suggestions Buddha would have advocated regarding parents and teachers are similar. According to Buddha, parents and teachers ought to be respected and their needs should be fulfilled with grace and dignity

## **Question 2 why were Stupas Built?**

This is an excerpt from the Mahaparinibbana Sutta, part of the Sutta Pitaka. As the Buddha lay, dying Ananda asked him "What are we to do Lord, with the remains of the Tathagata (another name for the Buddha)?" The Buddha replied, "Hinder not yourselves Ananda by honouring the remains of the Tathagata. Be zealous, be intent on your own good."

But when pressed further, the Buddha said, "At the four crossroads, they should erect a thupa (Pali for stupa) to the Tathagata. And whosoever shall there place garlands or perfume.... or make a salutation there, or become in its presence calm of heart, that shall long be to them for a profit and joy."

### **1. Why were the stupas built?**

**Ans.** Stupas were built because the relics of Buddha such as his bodily remains or objects used by him were buried there. These mounds were called stupas which came to be associated with Buddhism.

### **2. What Asoka did with the relics of Buddha?**

**Ans.** . Asoka distributed portions of Buddha's relics to every important town and ordered the construction of stupas over them.

### **3. Describe the structure of the stupas.**

**Ans.** Structure of stupas is as follows:

- Anda: It is a semi-circular mound of Earth called anda.
- Harmika: Above anda was the harmika, a balcony-like structure that represented the abode of the Gods.
- Yashti: Arising from harmika was a mast called yashti. It was surmounted by a chhatra or umbrella.
- Railing: Around the mound was a railing which separated the sacred place from the secular world.

### **Question 3.**

**Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.**

According to these traditions, Siddhartha, as the Buddha was named at birth, was the son of a chief of the Sakya clan. He has a sheltered upbringing within the palace, insulated from the harsh realities of life. One day he persuaded his charioteer to take him into the city. His first journey into the world outside was traumatic. He was deeply anguished when he saw an old man, a sick man and a corpse. He realised in that moment that the decay and destruction of the human body was inevitable. He also saw a homeless mendicant, who, it seemed to him, had come to terms with old age, disease and death, and found peace. Siddhartha decided that he too would adopt the same path. Soon after, he left the palace and set out in search of his own truth.

- 1. Who was Siddhartha?**
- 2. Which truths of life changed the life of Siddhartha?**

**Answer:**

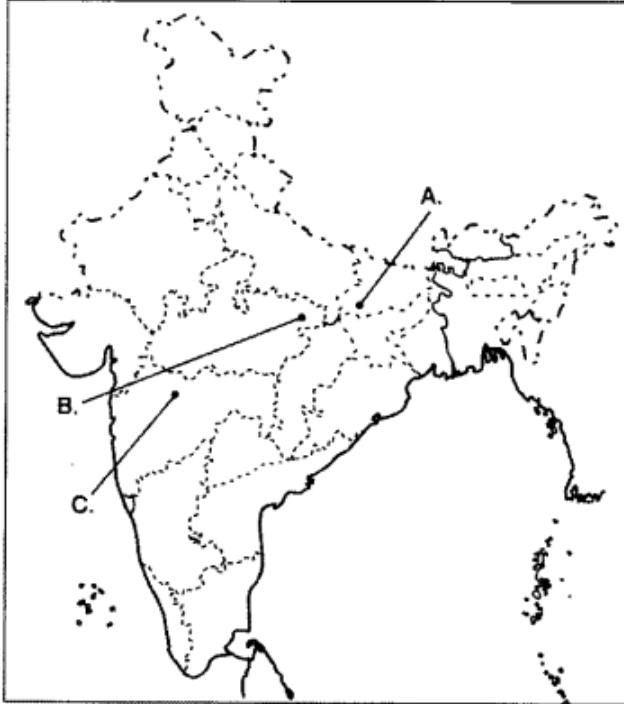
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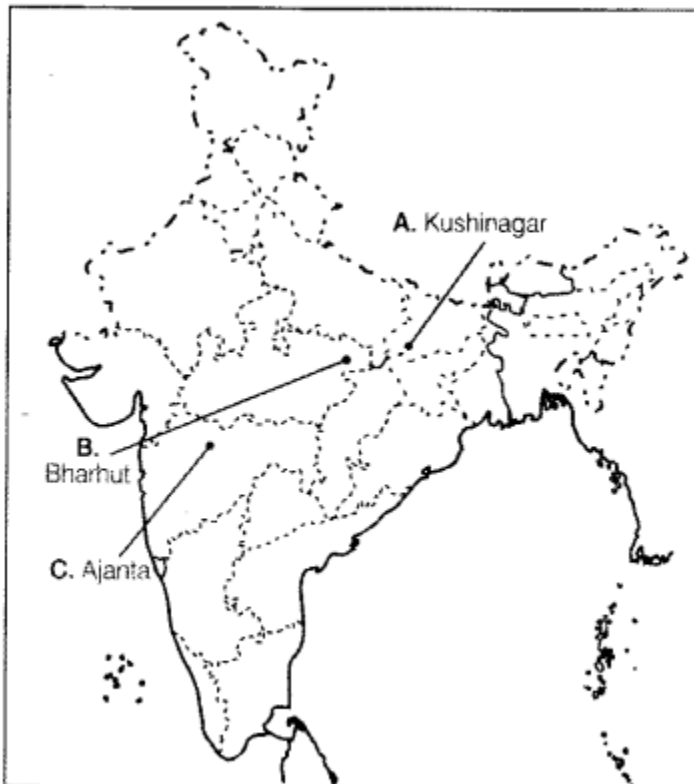
### Map Based Questions

#### Question 1

In the outline map of India, three places which are major Buddhist sites have been marked as A, B and C. Identify them and write their correct names on the lines drawn near them.



Answer:



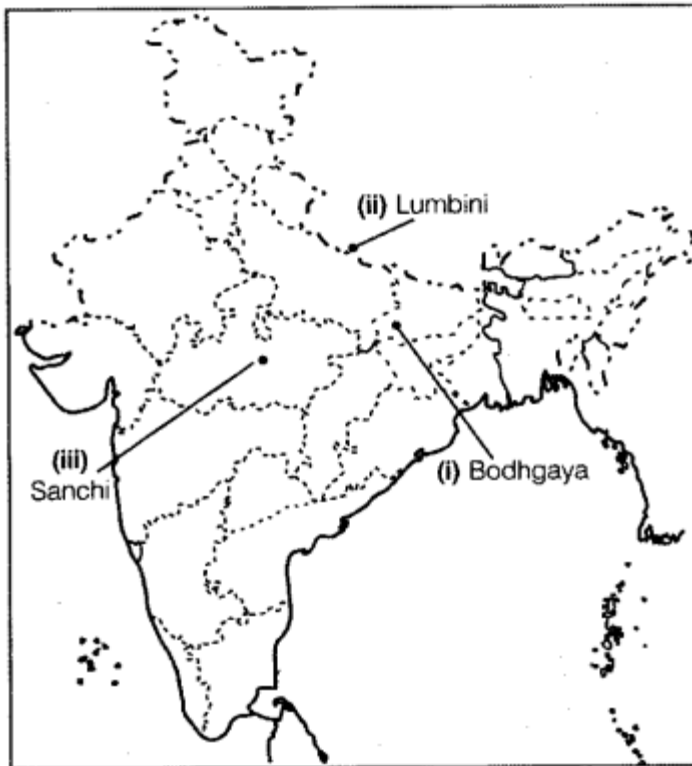


**Question 2.**

On the given political map of India, locate and label the following.

1. Bodhgaya.
2. Lumbini.
3. Sanchi.

Answer:



**Important Questions for Class 12 History Chapter 4 Value Based Questions**

**Question 19.**

“The principle of ahimsa and renunciation emphasised by Jainism has left its mark.” Support the statement with Lord Mahavira’s messages.

Answer:

The most important idea of Jainism is that the entire world is animated, even stones, rocks and water have life. In Jainism, the principle of ahimsa is emphasised. Jainism focuses on non-injury to living beings especially to humans, plants and insects.

Impacts of Jainism on Indian thinking are:

- The idea of ahimsa left its mark on Indian thinking on the whole especially the thinking of Buddha and Gandhiji.

- It also influenced Indian thinking in the light of the cycle of birth and rebirth through karma and renouncing the world to free oneself from the cycle of karma. In this respect, asceticism and penance are required.
- From the perspective of morality, vows like not to steal, kill, lie or possess property and observing celibacy were emphasised, which is easily evident in Indian thinking.
- It has stressed on simple way of life.
- Vegetarianism has also been derived from this thinking.

Question 20.

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