

Chapter 7. New Questions and Ideas

Very Short Q&A:

Q1: What was the early name of Buddha?

Ans: Siddhartha

Q2: Where did Buddha attained enlightenment?

Ans: He attained enlightenment in Bodh Gaya.

Q3: Who was the founder of Buddhism?

Ans: Siddhartha, also known as Gautama.

Q4: Buddha belonged to a small Gana known as the _____.

Ans: Sakya gana

Q5: Why did Buddha left the comforts of his home?

Ans: He left the comforts of his home in search of knowledge.

Q6: The tree under which Buddha meditated for several days was a Mango tree. True/False

Ans: False

Q7: Buddha gave his first sermon in _____.

Ans: Sarnath

Q8: Name the language in which Buddha preached?

Ans: He preached in Prakrit language, spoken by common people.

Q9: Upon what, was the Buddha's main teaching was based on?

Ans: Life is full of sufferings and unhappiness.

Q10: What was the language of the ordinary people?

Ans: Prakrit

Q11: The term 'Tanha' in Buddhist teaching means _____.

Ans: Thirst

Q12: Thirst is used in Buddhist teachings to explain desires of humans. True/False

Ans: True

Q13: For what Gargi was famous?

Ans: Learning

Q14: Who was Satyakama Jabala?

Ans: Satyakama Jabala was poor but managed to become the best known thinkers of that time.

Q15: Name the person who accepted Satyakama as a student.

Ans: Gautama

Q16: The ideas of the Upanishads were later developed by the famous thinker _____.

Ans: Shankaracharya

Q17: Who were Jainas?

Ans: Followers of Mahavira

Q18: How was the lifestyle of Jainas?

Ans: They had to lead very simple lives, begging for food.

Q19: Panini prepared grammar for_____.

Ans: Sanskrit

Q20: How did Panini prepared grammar for Sanskrit?

Ans: He arranged the vowels and the consonants in a special order and created formulas like those found in Algebra.

Q21: What were Lichchavis?

Ans: A clan that was a part of the Vajji janapada.

Q22: Where was the headquarters of The Lichchavis?

Ans: Vaisali

Q23: Who was Vardhamana Mahavira?

Ans: He was the prince of the Lichchavis, a group that was part of the Vajji sangha.

Q24: Maghadhi was Prakrit language spoken in_____.

Ans: Maghadha

Q25: A person who became a follower of Mahavira had to_____.

Ans: Observe celibacy

Q26: Why did Farmers could not support Jainism?

Ans: Farmers had to kill insects to protect their crops.

Q27: Where is Valabhi situated?

Ans: Gujarat

Q28: Both Mahavira and Buddha felt that only those who left their homes can gain true knowledge. True/False

Ans: True

Q29: What was the name of an association of those who left their homes.

Ans: Sangha

Q30: Name the book in which the rules made for the Buddhist sangha were written down.

Ans: Vinaya Pitaka

Q31: What was the Vanaprastha stage?

Ans: Stage that emphasised, meditation and life in the forest.

Q32: Buddha was approached by a woman to bring back the life of her deceased son. What was the name of the lady.

Ans: Kisagotami

Q33: Gautama Buddha passed away at _____.

Ans: Kusinara

Q34: "All beings long to live", who made this statement?

Ans: Mahavira

Q35: Who all joined the Sangha?

Ans: Merchants , labourers and slaves.

Q36: Zoroaster was a prophet from_____.

Ans: Iran

Q37: Define Avesta.

Ans: Zoroaster was a prophet from Iran. His teachings are contained in a book called the Avesta.

Q38: Define Tirthankara.

Ans: A seeker of truth in Jain religion.

Q39: Usually Upanishadic discussions were held by _____.

Ans: Brahmanas

Q40: Why Mahavira is called Jina?

Ans: For conquering pleasure and pain.

Q41: White clothes were worn by the followers of Jainism/Buddha

Ans: Jainism

Q42: Name the Brahman teacher who accepted Satyakama Jabala as a student.

Ans: Gautama

Q43: Jainism was primarily supported by _____.

Ans: Traders

Q44: Why was Shankaracharya famous?

Ans: Upanishadic thoughts

Q45: Vardhamana Mahavira asked his followers to strictly follow the doctrine of _____.

Ans: Ahimsa

Q46: The teachings of Mahavira and his followers, are available in written form at _____.

Ans: Valabhi

Q47: Both Jain and Buddhist monks rested only in the season of rain. True/False

Ans: True

Q48: The Zoroastrians who migrated to India are presently known as _____.

Ans: Parsis

Q49: Name the book in which The teachings of Zoraster are contained.

Ans: Zend Avesta

Q50: Name the place where The Karle cave is located.

Ans: Maharastra

Short Q&A:

Q1: What is thirst or tanha?

Ans: Buddha taught that life is full of sufferings and unhappiness because we have unlimited cravings and desires. Buddha described this as thirst or tanha.

Q2: Write short notes on shankaracharya.

Ans: Shankaracharya, with his remarkable reinterpretations of Hindu scriptures such as Upanishads or Vedanta, had a profound influence on the growth of Hinduism. He was born in 788 AD in a village named Kaladi on the banks of the river Purna in Kerala.

Q3: Write about vardhaman Mahavira.

Ans: He was the prince of the Lichchhavis, a group that was part of the Vajji sangha. At the age of thirty, he left home and went to live in a forest. For twelve years he led a hard and lonely life, at the end of which he attained enlightenment.

Q4: List the reasons for the spread of Jainism among the common people.

Ans: Labourers, slaves and merchants joined the Sangha. Other groups of people like the barahmins, kshjastriyas and courtesians also joined it. This is one of the reasons for the spread of Jainism among the common people.

Q5: Write about Gargi.

Ans: Gargi was one amongst few learned women, who had contributed in the creation of Upanishads. She was the daughter of sage Vachaknu and her inclination towards academics was very conspicuous from an early age. She has composed several hymns, questioning the origin of all existence.

Q6: Who were bhikkhus and the bhikkhunis?

Ans: These were the members of the Buddhist sangha. They meditated for most of the time and went to villages and cities for begging food. They taught others and helped one another.

Q7: What is the meaning of Upanishad?

Ans: The literal meaning of Upanishad is 'approaching and sitting near' and the texts contain conversation between teachers and students. Mostly the ideas were presented through simple dialogues.

Q8: How were the other thinkers trying to understand the world during the Buddha period?

Ans: Around the time that Buddha was preaching, other thinkers also tried to find answers to difficult questions. They tried to understand life after death. Others wanted to know the purpose of sacrifices.

Q9: Explain the terms atman and Brahman.

Ans: During the period of Buddha some thinkers tried to understand what existed after the death in the universe. They felt that soul existed even after death; they called it as the atman or the individual soul, and Brahman the universal soul as. They believed that ultimately, both the atman and the Brahman became one.

Q10: How did Buddha spend the rest of his life?

Ans: Buddha spent the rest of his life travelling on foot, going from place to place, and teaching people.

Q11: Why did the Buddha leave his home? Explain briefly.

Ans: When Buddha was a young man, he left his house leaving his luxurious life in search of knowledge. He wandered for several years meeting and holding discussions with other thinkers. He finally decided to find his own path to realisation, and meditated for days on end under a peepal tree at Bodh Gaya in Bihar, where he attained enlightenment. It was only after attaining that knowledge that he was known as the Buddha or the Wise One. He gave his first sermon at Sarnath, near Varanasi. For the rest of his life he travelled on foot went from place to place and taught people.

Q12: What were monasteries and viharas?

Ans: Both Jaina and Buddhist monks went from place to place spreading the principles of their teachers throughout the year except during rainy season. It was very difficult to travel during the rainy season. During this season, their supporters made temporary shelters for them in gardens or the monks stayed in natural caves. With time the monks and nuns and their supporters realised the need for more permanent shelters and so monasteries were built. These were known as viharas.

Q13: Explain the system of the ashramas and who were expected to follow the ashramas?

Ans: The word ashram was used for a stage of life. Brahmin, kshatriya and vaishya men were expected to follow the system of ashrams.

1. They were to lead simple lives and study the Vedas during the early years of their life (brahmacharya).
2. Then they had to marry and live as householders (grihastha).
3. Then they had to live in the forest and meditate (vanaprastha).

4. Finally, they had to give up everything and become samnyasis.

The system of ashramas allowed men to spend some part of their lives in meditation. Generally, women were not allowed to study the Vedas, and they had to follow the ashramas chosen by their husbands.

Q14: Who were Jainas and how did they lead their life?

Ans: The followers of Mahavira were known as Jainas. The teachings of Jainism were:

1. They had to lead very simple lives, begging for food.
2. They had to be honest and should not steal. They had to observe celibacy.
3. Men had to give up everything, including their clothes.
4. Despite these strict rules and regulations, many followed the teachings of Mahavira.

Q15: What does Vinaya Pitaka say about the Buddhist sangha?

Ans: According to Vinaya Pitaka, there were separate branches for men and women. All men could join the sangha. But children had to get permission from their parents and slaves from their masters. Those who worked for the king had to take his permission and debtors that of creditors. Women had to get permission from their husbands.

Q16: What were the things gifted by the people to the Buddhist monks?

Ans: The people gave gifts of food, clothing and medicines to the monks and nuns. In return, the monks taught the people.

Q17: Who all were the Upanishadic thinkers?

Ans: The Upanishadic thinkers were men especially Brahmins and rajas. Occasionally, there is a mention of women thinkers such as Gargi, who was famous for her learning and participated in the debates in the royal courts. Poor people rarely took part in these discussions.

Q18: What were the predictions made by the seers for Prince Siddhartha?

Ans: The seers predicted that either the young prince would become a great king or he would be a great holy man.

Q19: What happened when Siddhartha saw the four sights on an excursion outside the palace?

Ans: Having seen the four sights, Siddhartha decided to search for answers to the mystery of life and death and find a solution to the suffering of mankind.

Q20: Did the Buddhist sanghas attach themselves to day to day life? How were they different from other sanghas?

Ans: Other sanghas were a group of people who took decisions on policy matters and issues of day to day management. The Buddhist Sangha was a group of people who detached themselves from day to day issues of life and devoted their time in the quest of truth.

Q21: What are Mahavira's main teachings?

Ans: Mahavira taught living a simple life and was against rituals and animal sacrifice. His teachings are known as the tri-ratnas.

Q22: What was the difference between Buddha and Mahavira?

Ans: Buddha gave the society a new religion in the form of Buddhism. Jainism however existed before Mahavira. Mahavira reformed the practice of Jainism and made it simpler.

Long Q&A:

Q1: What were the teachings of Buddha?

Ans:

1. Buddha taught that life is full of sufferings and unhappiness caused by our cravings and desires which often cannot be fulfilled.
2. He asked to follow moderation in everything and to remove constant craving or thirst (tanha)
3. He taught people to be kind and respect the lives of others, including animals.
4. He believed that the results of our actions (karma) affect us both in this life and the next.

He encouraged the people to think for themselves and just not accept what he said.

Q2: Briefly describe the Upanishads. Who were the Upanishadic thinkers?

Ans:

Upanishad literally means 'approaching and sitting near', as pupils used to sit near a guru in the ashrams. During the times of Buddha and in earlier times, many thinkers tried to find answers to some difficult questions. Their ideas about the concept of the atman or the individual soul, and the Brahman or the universal soul and ideas about life after the death were recorded in the Upanishads. Upanishads were a part of the later Vedic texts.

The Upanishadic thinkers were men especially Brahmins and rajas. Occasionally, there is a mention of women thinkers such as Gargi, who was famous for her learning and participated in the debates in the royal courts. Poor people rarely took part in these discussions.