

NIOS lesson adaptation project

By EMBRACE Volunteers

(A community initiative of Harchan Foundation Trust)

Chapter 1

History and Appreciation of Art

(Printable Version)

- **Previous Year Questions with Answers**
- **Terminal Questions**

This project is aimed at supporting children with different needs. Information provided is adapted to the best of knowledge by the volunteers. For complete information please refer to the NIOS resources in <https://www.nios.ac.in/online-course-material/secondary-courses.aspx>.

LESSON 1

HISTORY AND APPRECIATION OF ART (FROM 3000 BC TO 600 AD)

Previous Year Questions

The question having 2 marks should be answered in about 30 words

1. Describe the “Dancing Girl” metal Sculpture and mention its finding site.

***** (4 times)**

Answer:

- The Dancing Girl is in a resting posture with her left hand on the thigh and her right hand on the waist.
- Her hairstyle is tied in a bun.
- Her bangles are till almost her shoulder.
- She is not wearing any dress.
- Its height is 4 inches (approx).
- It was found in Mohenjo-Daro.
- Currently it is located in National Museum which is in New Delhi.

2. Choose a painting from Ajanta and appreciate its style and technique.* (4 times)**

Answer: One painting from Ajanta is Black Princess.

- It was done in the traditional technique of tempera.
- It was done in earth colours, devoid of any loudness.
- It has free flowing lines, subtle rhythm of the body contour.

3. Write a few lines on the contributions towards art by the Mauryans and the Sungas?* (3 times)**

Answer: The contribution of Mauryans and Sungas are:

- Mauryan’s contribution was highly polished sculpted pillars across north India. Also, they contributed to the folk art in the form of crude mother goddess figures.
- Sunga’s contribution was stupas and sculptures of Sanchi.

4. What are the characteristics of Ajanta paintings?* (3 times)**

Answer: The characteristics of Ajanta paintings are:

- Ajanta paintings were done in two phases, Hinayana ((where Lord Buddha is represented in symbols) and Mahayana (where he is shown in human form).
- They are done in traditional technique of tempera.
- Their themes were primarily religious in nature.

5. Write a note about the characteristics of the Gupta period's painting?

- The golden period in Indian Art History.
- Representation of human figures was refined.
- The stylistic stamp of the Gupta - slight tilt of the lip, the full roundness of the figures, accurate carvings and simplicity.
- The religious sculptures show a divine quality.
- Paintings of Ajanta were done during this period.
- The new development in art was the Cave and Temple architectures.

6. What is the contribution of Kushans?

Answer: The kushan's who have come from outside India helped in the progress of art in India. They contributed for the development of sculpted portraiture.

7. What is the hairstyle of Dancing Girl?

Answer: The description of dancing girl hairstyle:

- This figure shows a much contemporary style. Her hair is tied in a bun.
- This is in contrast to the other mother goddess figures, which have been found from this civilization and have a queer and elaborate hair style.

8. Why Gupta period is known as Golden or classical period of Indian History?* (2 times)**

Answer: We call Gupta period as the golden or classical period of Indian History due to:

- Overall development in every field, including all kinds of arts and science.
- Rise of legendary personalities like Kalidasa, Aryabhatta and Varahamitra.
- The making of both religious and secular sculptures.

- Representation of human figures were refined

9. Write in detail about Ramapurva Bull capital made by emperor Ashoka?* (3 times)**

Answer: Rampurva Bull Capital was found in Ramapurva, West Champaran district of the Indian state of Bihar. Its details are:

- It is made up of polished sandstone.
- It is 7 feet (approximately) in height.
- Now it is in Indian Museum, Kolkata.
- It has three parts - a base, an elongated shaft and a decorated crown of the pillar.

10. Mention the artistic qualities of “Dancing Girl” of Mohenjo-Daro?* (4 times)**

Answer: The artistic qualities of Dancing Girl are:

- The figure is lanky, thin and rhythmic in character.
- The figure wears bangles on her left hand till almost the shoulder, same as tribals of Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- The hairstyle is done in contemporary style.
- Though it is 4 inches in height, it appears to be larger due to the tremendous monumentality created by the fine artistic skills and craftsmanship.

11. Describe the “Dancing Girl” metal Sculpture and mention its finding site.

Answer: The Dancing Girl is in a curious posture:

- The Dancing Girl is in a resting posture with her left hand on the thigh and her right hand on the waist.
- Her hairstyle is tied in a bun.
- Her bangles are till almost her shoulder.
- She is not wearing any dress.
- Its height is 4 inches (approx).
- It was found in Mohenjo-Daro.
- Currently it is located in National Museum which is in New Delhi.

12. What are the characteristics of Ajanta paintings?

Answer: The characteristics of Ajanta paintings are:

- Ajanta paintings were done in two phases, Hinayana ((where Lord Buddha is represented in symbols) and Mahayana (where he is shown in human form).
- They are done in traditional technique of tempera.
- Their themes were primarily religious in nature.

13. What is the contribution of Kushans?

Answer: The kushan's who have come from outside India helped in the progress of art in India. They contributed for the development of sculpted portraiture.

14. What is the hairstyle of Dancing Girl?

Answer: The description of dancing girl hairstyle:

- This figure shows a much contemporary style. Her hair is tied in a bun.
- This is in contrast to the other mother goddess figures, which have been found from this civilization, and have a queer and elaborate hair style.

15. Describe the origin of Indus Valley Civilization and why it was named so?

Answer: Indus Valley Civilization was named after the site from where the first evidence of this civilization was found.

- Main sites of this civilization are **Mohenjo-Daro** and **Harappa** (now in Pakistan).
- Though initially it was considered that this civilization was mainly concentrated in the Indus River Valley and was named accordingly, recent
- Excavations show that it was extended beyond the basin of River Indus.

TERMINAL EXERCISES

1. Write in short about the works of Indus Valley Civilization.

Answer: Indus Valley Civilization is the first evidence of this civilization was found.

- Main sites of this civilization are Mohenjo-daro and Harappa .
- It is also known as Harappan civilization.
- Artists of the Harappan period were extremely skilled.
- Great numbers of art and antiquities have been found from this period

- It includes seals, pottery, jewellery , tools and toys and other utilitarian objects.

2. Describe in brief the posture of the Dancing Girl.

Answer:

- The statue has been shown without clothes.
- In her left hand she has bangles till her shoulder.
- This figure shows a much contemporary hair style.
- Her hair is tied in a bun.
- She stands in a resting posture with her right hand at her waist and her left hand on her left thigh.
- The casting is perfect.
- It shows the talent of the artists in metal casting during that period.
- The statue is 4 inches in height only, but it seems to be a larger one.

3. Write in short about Mauryan art *(3 times)

Answer:

- Emperor Ashoka engraved teachings of Lord Buddha on pillars, rock surfaces and tablets all over India
- Bull Capital is one of the most famous ones among the Ashokan capitals.
- High polishing is one of the main characteristics of the Mauryan sculptures from the Ashokan period.
- The technique of high polish was learnt from the sculptors of Middle East.

4. Why do we call Gupta period as the golden or the classical period of Indian history?

Answer: We call Gupta period as the golden or classical period of Indian History due to:

- Overall development in every field, including all kinds of arts and science.
- Rise of legendary personalities like Kalidasa, Aryabhatta and Varahamitra.
- The making of both religious and secular sculptures.
- Representation of human figures was refined.

5. What are the specialties of the Mauryan sculptures?

Answer:

- Emperor Ashoka engraved teachings of Lord Buddha on pillars, rock surfaces and tablets all over India.
- Bull Capital is one of the most famous ones among the Ashokan capitals.
- High polishing is one of the main characteristics of the Mauryan sculptures from the Ashokan period.
- The technique of high polish was learnt from the sculptors of Middle East.

6. What was the contribution of the Kushans?

Answer:

- The Kushans, who had come from outside India, also helped in the progress of art work in India.
- During this period, we see the development of the sculpted portraiture for the first time.

7. What were the characteristics of the Gupta period paintings?

Answer:

- The golden period in Indian Art History.
- The stylistic stamp of the Gupta - slight tilt of the lip, the full roundness of the figures, accurate carvings and simplicity.
- The religious sculptures show a divine quality.
- Paintings of Ajanta were done during this period.
- The new development in art was the Cave and Temple architectures.