

L-3 AJANTA CAVES

Key Words/New Words

Settlement	Horse-shoe	Viz. (namely)	Dwelling place	monk	Ceiling
Theme	Plaster	Master piece	Inclined	Posture	Suggestion
Grace	Elegant	Down cast	Serene	Compassion	Ornamentation
Pearl	Sapphire	Conquest	Vices	Material World	Depicted
Gesture	Frustration	Guilt	Portraying	feminine	Elegance
Linear					

In-text Questions

In-text Questions 3.2

- It is called Padmapani because the figure is holding a blue lotus in right - hand.
- The medium of this painting is Tempera on Wall.
- It is found in cave no 1 of Ajanta Caves.

In-text Questions 3.3

Choose the right answer:

- The story of conquering temptation by Buddha is known as Mara-Vijaya.
 - Dig Vijaya
 - Tapasya
 - Mara- Vijaya**

b) The Mara-Vijaya painting is found in Ajanta cave No1.

i. Ajanta cave No1

ii. Ajanta cave No 2

iii. Ajanta cave No 3

c) Size of this painting is 12'x8'.

i. 12'x20'

ii. 10'x10'

iii. 12'x8'

Model Questions

1. What do you know about Ajanta caves?

Answer: A short note on Ajanta caves:

- Ajanta caves were a Buddhist settlement near Auranagabad, Maharashtra.
- It was discovered by some British soldiers.
- It has 29 caves. They have been cut from a horse-shoe shaped hill side.
- Paintings have been found in six caves.
- These caves are of two types: Chaityas and Viharas.
- Chaitya was a place of worship, while Vihara was the residence place for monks.
- The walls, ceiling and the front part of both Chaityas and Viharas beautifully decorated with sculpture and painting.
- The theme of these art works is mainly based on Jataka tales.
- The technique used for paintings is Tempera.

2. Write a short note on the techniques of Ajanta paintings?

Answer: The technique used for Ajanta paintings is Tempera:

- a. A rough mud plaster, containing cowdung and animal hair was first pressed on the rocks.
- b. A coat of fine lime plaster was laid on it.
- c. The colour was applied after the ground was completely dry.

3. Briefly assess the artistic achievements of Ajanta painters?

Answer: The artistic achievements of Ajanta painters:

- Ajanta painters followed the traditional method of Indian wall painting.
- They were masters in handling colour. The principle colours in use were: Red, Yellow, Blue, White and Green.
- They were also masters in portraying feminine emotions and grace.
- Using the Buddhist religious themes they tried to teach the concepts of world. The themes were of Jataka Tales.

Previous Year Questions

The questions of 1 mark should be answered in about 15 words, 2 marks in about 30 words, and 3 and 4 marks should be answered in about 50 words.

1. Describe the Ajanta painting 'Padmapani Bodhisattva' and the technique of these paintings of Ajanta. 2

Answer: Padmapani Bodhisattva was done using the technique of Tempera on wall.

Tempera on wall technique:

- a. A rough mud plaster, containing cowdung and animal hair was first

pressed on the rocks.

- b. A coat of fine lime plaster was laid on it.
- c. The colour was applied after the ground was completely dry.

Description of Padmapani Bodhisattva painting:

- The slightly inclined posture of Buddha shows grace.
- The features of the face and the down-cast eyes signify Buddha's serene meditation and compassion.
- The ornamentation is rationally done.
- Buddha is wearing pearl and sapphire necklace.
- He is holding a blue lotus in his right hand.
- The size of the figure is quite large.

2. Review the Ajanta painting 'Padmapani Bodhisattva'. 2

Answer: Description of Padmapani Bodhisattva painting:

- The slightly inclined posture of Buddha shows grace.
- The features of the face and the down-cast eyes signify Buddha's serene meditation and compassion.
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3. Narrate the story of MaraVijaya and write atleast five lines to appreciate its beauty in the paintings of Ajanta? 2

Answer:

The story of MaraVijaya:

- Mara was a demon king.

- He tried to disturb Gautama Buddha's meditation by sending his beautiful daughters and other temptations.
- But, Buddha remained undisturbed.
- Finally Buddha called upon mother Earth by doing Bhumisparsha Muda.
- Mother Earth swept away Mara and his temptations in the waters that come out of her hair.

Mara Vijaya painting appreciative notes:

- Mara-Vijaya painting narrates how Buddha conquered all worldly temptations through meditation.
- This painting shows the frustration and guilt feelings of the young women who tried to disturb Buddha using their beauty.
- These women's feelings are shown through different postures and gestures.
- Also, it shows that Ajantha painters were masters in portraying feminine emotions and grace.

4. Write short notes on the following : 2

- a. Chaityas
- b. Viharas

Answer: Ajanta caves have in total 29 caves. Out of 29 caves, 6 caves have sculptures and paintings in them.

These caves are of two types: **Chaityas and Viharas.**

- **Chaityas**: Chaitya was a place of worship.
- **Viharas**: Vihara was the residence place for monks.
- The walls, ceiling and the front part of both Chaityas and Viharas was beautifully decorated with sculpture and painting.
- The theme of these art works is mainly based on Jataka tales.

- The technique used for paintings was Tempera.

5. What do you know about the technique and method of Ajanta painting? 2

Answer: The technique used for Ajanta paintings is **Tempera**:

- a. A rough mud plaster, containing cow dung and animal hair was first pressed on the rocks.
- b. A coat of fine lime plaster was laid on it.
- c. The color was applied after the ground was completely dry.

6. Describe the painting "Padmapani Bodhisatva" from Ajanta. [2]

Answer: Description of Padmapani Bodhisattva painting:

- The slightly inclined posture of Buddha shows grace.
- The features of the face and the down-cast eyes signify Buddha's serene meditation and compassion.
- The ornamentation is rationally done.
- Buddha is wearing pearl and sapphire necklace.
- He is holding a blue lotus in his right hand.
- The size of the figure is quite large.

7. Appreciate any painting of the Ajanta caves included in your course of Studies.[2]

Answer: **Mara Vijaya** is one of the outstanding paintings on Ajanta caves.

Mara Vijaya painting appreciative notes:

- Mara-Vijaya painting narrates how Buddha conquered all worldly temptations through meditation.
- This painting shows the frustration and guilt feelings of the young women who tried to disturb Buddha using their beauty.

- These women's feelings are shown through different postures and gestures.
- Also, it shows that Ajanta painters were masters in portraying feminine emotions and grace.

8. Analyze the technique and method of Ajanta Paintings. 2

Answer: The technique used for Ajanta paintings is **Tempera**:

- a. A rough mud plaster, containing cow dung and animal hair was first pressed on the rocks.
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9.	Appreciate any one painting of the Ajanta Caves included in your course of study. 2
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Answer: Padmapani Bodhisattva is one of the exemplary paintings on Ajanta caves:

An appreciative notes on Padmapani Bodhi Sattva:

- The slightly inclined posture of Buddha shows grace.
- The features of the face and the down-cast eyes signify Buddha's serene meditation and compassion.
- The ornamentation is rationally done.
- Buddha is wearing pearl and sapphire necklace.
- He is holding a blue lotus in his right hand.
- The size of the figure is quite large

10. Review the famous Ajanta painting 'Mara Vijaya'. 2

Answer: **Mara Vijaya painting appreciative notes:**

- Mara-Vijaya painting narrates how Buddha conquered all worldly temptations through meditation.
- This painting shows the frustration and guilt feelings of the young women who tried to disturb Buddha using their beauty.
- These women's feelings are shown through different postures and gestures.
- Also, it shows that Ajantha painters were masters in portraying feminine emotions and grace.

11. Give a general introduction to "Chaityas" and "Viharas". 2

Answer: Ajanta caves have in total 29 caves. Out of 29 caves, 6 caves have sculptures and paintings in them.

These caves are of two types: **Chaityas and Viharas**.

- **Chaityas**: Chaitya was a place of worship.
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- The theme of these art works is mainly based on Jataka tales.
- The technique used for paintings was Tempera.

12. Discuss the technique and method of Ajanta Painting. 2

Answer: The technique used for Ajanta paintings is **Tempera**:

- a. A rough mud plaster, containing cow dung and animal hair was first pressed on the rocks.
- b. A coat of fine lime plaster was laid on it.
- c. The color was applied after the ground was completely dry.

13. Describe the theme and beauty of the painting "Mara Vijaya" of Ajanta. 2

Answer: **Mara Vijaya painting appreciative notes:**

- Mara-Vijaya painting narrates how Buddha conquered all worldly temptations through meditation.
- This painting shows the frustration and guilt feelings of the young women who tried to disturb Buddha using their beauty.
- These women's feelings are shown through different postures and gestures.
- Also, it shows that Ajantha painters were masters in portraying feminine emotions and grace.

Write short notes on the following :

2

- (a) Chaityas
14. (b) Viharas

Answer: Ajanta caves have in total 29 caves. Out of 29 caves, 6 caves have sculptures and paintings in them.

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