

L-4 TEMPLE ART AND SCULPTURE

Key Words/New Words

Temple Ornamentation	Ancient Period	Medieval Period	Structural temple	Dressed Stone
Shrine	Prolific	Embellished	Enlisted	Pattern
Architect	Remarkable	Adorns	Dedicated	Worshippers
Relief panel	Deity	Engaged	Scene	Depicted
Iconography	Narrative sculpture	Commendable	Dramatic treatment	Monumental sculpture
Gracious	Feminine	Pantheon	Trinity	Hindu Trinity
Rendering	Manifestation	Magnificent	Proportion	Achievement
Jangha of temple	Erotic	Diverse	Treasure	

In-text Questions

In-text Questions 4.2

- The Mahisasura Mardini sculpture shows Devi Durga slaying Mahisasura, the buffalo demon.
- This sculpture is in Kailash temple, Ellora, Maharashtra.
- This belongs to the Rastrakuta style of 8th century A.D.

In-text Questions 4.3

Choose the right answer

- The statue of Mahesha is of Shiva.

i. Brahma

ii. Krishna

iii. Shiva

b) The central head of Trimurti represents Sadasiva.

i. Rudra

ii. Nataraja

iii. Sadasiva

c) The destructive aspect of Mahesha Murti in the left head is called Aghora.

i. Aghora

ii. Vamadeva

iii. Mahadeva

In-text Questions 4.4

Fill up the blanks

1. It is one of the finest achievements of Indian temple architecture in the Vesara style.
2. There are three bands of sculpture on the Jangha of the temple.
3. Inside of the temple is plain and dark.

Model Questions

1. What are the characteristics of Mahisasuramardini at Kailash temple of Ellora?

Answer: The characteristics of Mahisasuramardini at Kailash temple of Ellora are:

- It shows the battle scenes in which Mother Durga is slaying buffalo demon, Mahisasura.
- The sculpture is a high point in the development of Hindu iconography and monumental sculpture.
- The sculpture is narrative and the human figures are made in perfection.
- The sculpture has grace, beauty, powerful expression, and dramatic composition.

2. Write in brief the main features of Trimurti at Elephanta near Mumbai.

Answer: The main features of Trimurti at Elephanta near Mumbai are:

- It is made of rock cut.
- Lord Shiva is shown as the three-headed Mahadeva.
- The three heads represent three different aspects of God.
- The centre head is creative self – **Sadasiva**, the left head represents destructive nature – **Aghora**, and the right head shows the feminine manifestation of the beauty of nature – **Vamadeva**.

3. Why is the Kandariya Mahadeva temple at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh famous?

Answer: The Kandariya Mahadeva temple at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh famous because:

- It is the most magnificent and the biggest temple of the Khajuraho school of architecture.
- It has perfect proportions and rich ornamentation.
- It is one of the finest achievements of Indian temple architecture in **Vesara** style.
- There are three bands of sculptures on the Jangha of the temple.

- Both erotic-figure sculptures and usual Hindu-god sculptures are carved to perfection.
- Inside of the temple is plain and dark, where one can meditate peacefully.

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. Write, in brief, the main features of 'Trimurti' at Elephanta. 2

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- Lord Shiva is shown as the three-headed Mahadeva.
- The three heads represent three different aspects of God.
- The centre head is creative self – **Sadasiva**, the left head represents destructive nature – **Aghora**, and the right head shows the feminine manifestation of the beauty of nature – **Vamadeva**.

2. Summarise a general introduction to the temple art of 8th century in India. 2

Answer: The temple art of 8th century A.D in India:

- The sculpture and architecture of temples were combined.
- The three architectural styles – Nagara (of North India), Dravida (of South India), Vesara (of Central India) are treasures of Indian temple sculpture.
- The Palas built temples in the Eastern India.
- The Cholas and Pallavas built temples in the South India.
- The Rashtrakutas and Chandellas built temples in the Central India.

- All these temples of East, South and Central India are beautiful, and are embellished with sculpture.
- The temple sculpture flourished till 12th century A.D. in areas like Vijayanagara, Mysore, Rajasthan, Bengal and Orissa.

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4. What is the aesthetic significance of the Mahisasuramardini on Ellora temple? 2

Answer: The characteristics of Mahisasuramardini at Kailash temple of Ellora are:

- It shows the battle scenes in which Mother Durga is slaying buffalo demon, Mahisasura.
- The sculpture is a high point in the development of Hindu iconography and monumental sculpture.
- The sculpture is narrative and the human figures are made in perfection.
- The sculpture has grace, beauty, powerful expression, and dramatic composition.

What is the aesthetic significance of the Mahisasuramardhini in Ellora temple sculpture ?

Answer: Same as above

6. Give a general introduction to the temples of 8th CCE in India. 2

Answer: The temple art of 8th century A.D in India:

- The sculpture and architecture of temples were combined.
- The three architectural styles – Nagara (of North India), Dravida (of South India), Vesara (of Central India) are treasures of Indian temple sculpture.
- The Palas built temples in the Eastern India.
- The Cholas and Pallavas built temples in the South India.
- The Rashtrakutas and Chandellas built temples in the Central India.
- All these temples of East, South and Central India are beautiful, and are embellished with sculpture.
- The temple sculpture flourished till 12th century A.D. in areas like Vijayanagara, Mysore, Rajasthan, Bengal and Orissa.

7. Why is Kandariya Mahadev Temple at Khajuraho famous? When was This temple built? [2]

Answer: The Kandariya Mahadeva temple at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh was built during Chandella dynasty, 10th century A.D. It is famous because:

- It is the most magnificent and the biggest temple of the Khajuraho school of architecture.
- It has perfect proportions and rich ornamentation.
- It is one of the finest achievements of Indian temple architecture in **Vesara** style.
- There are three bands of sculptures on the Jangha of the temple.
- Both erotic-figure sculptures and usual Hindu-god sculptures are carved to perfection.

- Inside of the temple is plain and dark, where one can meditate peacefully.

8. Give a general introduction to the temple Art of 8th C.C.E. in India. [2]

Answer: The temple art of 8th century A.D in India:

- The sculpture and architecture of temples were combined.
- The three architectural styles – Nagara (of North India), Dravida (of South India), Vesara (of Central India) are treasures of Indian temple sculpture.
- The Palas built temples in the Eastern India.
- The Cholas and Pallavas built temples in the South India.
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- All these temples of East, South and Central India are beautiful, and are embellished with sculpture.
- The temple sculpture flourished till 12th century A.D. in areas like Vijayanagara, Mysore, Rajasthan, Bengal and Orissa.

9. Estimate the chief characteristics of temple art of 8th C to 12th C AD of India. 2

Answer: Same as above.

10. Estimate the chief features of temple art of 8 th C.C.E. to 12 th C.C.E. of India.	2
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Answer: Same as above.

11. Give a general introduction to the temple art of 8th century in India. 2

Answer: Same as above

12. Write at least thirty words of appreciation on 'Trimurti' of Elephanta. 2

Answer: The main features of Trimurti at Elephanta near Mumbai are:

- It is made of rock cut.
- Lord Shiva is shown as the three-headed Mahadeva.
- The three heads represent three different aspects of God.
- The centre head is creative self – **Sadasiva**, the left head represents destructive nature – **Aghora**, and the right head shows the feminine manifestation of the beauty of nature – **Vamadeva**.

13. Describe the theme and beauty of the sculpture "Mahishasurmardini" at Ellora. 2

Answer: The characteristics of Mahisasuramardini at Kailash temple of Ellora are:

- It shows the battle scenes in which Mother Durga is slaying buffalo demon, Mahisasura.
- The sculpture is a high point in the development of Hindu iconography and monumental sculpture.
- The sculpture is narrative and the human figures are made in perfection.
- The sculpture has grace, beauty, powerful expression, and dramatic composition.

14. Indicate the site of Ellora and review one of the relief sculptures of Kailashnath temple. 2

Answer: Ellora is a rock- cut cave complex located in Maharashtra, India. The kailshnath temple is a part of Ellora cave.

One of the relief sculptures of Kailashnath temple is Mahisasuramardini. It's characteristics are:

- It shows the battle scenes in which Mother Durga is slaying buffalo demon, Mahisasura.



- The sculpture is a high point in the development of Hindu iconography and monumental sculpture.
- The sculpture is narrative and the human figures are made in perfection.
- The sculpture has grace, beauty, powerful expression, and dramatic composition.