

Very Short Answer Questions

Q.1. Why were Upanishads compiled?

Ans. Around 600 BC, scholars criticised all rituals and stressed on right belief. The aim of Upanishads was to do away with time-consuming rituals which were esoteric and confined to the realms of Brahmins.

Q.2. What are Upanishads? What did they preach?

Ans. Literally 'Upanishad' means approaching and sitting near the teacher. The Upanishads stressed on the need to create a desire for knowledge to achieve Moksha (freedom from rebirth). There were about 108 Upanishads with the essence that belief is the ultimate reality.

Q.3. What were the five doctrines of Jainism?

Ans. Mahavira taught five doctrines:

- i. not to injure life,
- ii. not to tell a lie,
- iii. not to steal anything,
- iv. not to possess property, and
- v. to vow chastity (brahmacharya). Mahavira had no belief in God.

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. Who all preached Upanishads? How was it received?

Ans. Philosophy given by scholars like Maitreyi, Gargi, Shandilya, Shvetaketu, Sanatkumara and so on, is compiled in the Upanishads which marked a completeness in the advocacy of Hinduism. It was received well by kings and people including that of Panchala and Vidisha.

Q.2. Who was Mahavira? When did he leave his palace?

Ans. Mahavira is usually regarded as the founder of Jainism. He was born near Vaishali in North Bihar in 568 BC. He belonged to a well-known Kshatriya clan, and was related to the Lichchavi ruling family of Vaishali. His early life passed in royal luxuries. From his early age, he received good education. He had a bent towards meditation. He left the palace at an early age and went to live in forest. He led a hard and lonely life, at the end of which he attained enlightenment.

Q.3. How did Mahavira spread his religion in spite of all the obstacles?

Ans. After attaining the highest knowledge, Mahavira travelled widely in the country preaching the principles of Jainism for thirty years. In the country of Ladha, people attacked him with dogs. He received support of royal families like King Bimbisara of Magadha who helped him in the spread of his religion.

Q.4. Who could all join Buddhists Sangha?

Ans.

- i. All men could join the Sangha.
- ii. However, children had to take permission of their parents and slaves from their masters.
- iii. Those who worked for king had to take his permission and debtors from the creditors.
- iv. Women had to take their husband's permission.

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. Examine the teaching of Buddha.

Ans.

- i. Buddha taught that life is full of sufferings and unhappiness.
- ii. This is due to desires in one's life, one should forget these desires.
- iii. He taught people to be kind, to respect the lives of others, including animals.
- iv. He believed that results of one actions, whether good or bad, affect us both in the present life and the next.
- v. He encouraged people to think for themselves rather than to simply accept what he said.

Q.2. What were the rules for Buddhist monks in a Sangha?

Ans. The life in a Buddhist Sangha was very hard. The bhikkhu had to beg his food from door to door. He had no family and no private property. They meditated for most of the time. The members of the Sangha, both the monks and nuns, were to spend most of the year among the people preaching the message of the Buddha. They were to live in monasteries (Viharas) and nunneries, and not in their families.

Q.3. Where did Buddha spread his message?

Ans. Buddha moved around the Gangetic Valley in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar preaching his message, visiting and converting princes as well as peasants irrespective of caste. He converted hundreds and thousands to his faith which came to be known as Buddhism. It is generally believed that the Buddha was a contemporary of Bimbisara and Ajatashatru of Magadha and died in the reign of the latter.

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. What were the similarities between Buddhism and Jainism?

Ans. There are many similarities between Buddhism and Jainism.

- i. Both the religions are indebted to the Upanishads.
- ii. Both deny the existence of God.
- iii. Both condemned the Yajnas, sacrifices and other Vedic rituals.
- iv. Ahimsa is the prominent principle of both the religions.