



# Social Science

## Class 6

### Chapter 7: India's Cultural Roots



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## Questions, Activities & Projects

**Que 1. If you were Nachiketa, what questions would you like to ask Yama? Write them down in 100-150 words.**

Ans: If I were Nachiketa, I would ask Yama some important questions that would clarify the mysteries of life, death and soul. My questions would be as follows:

1. What happens to the soul after death?
2. Is the soul immortal, or does it take rebirth?
3. What is the real purpose of life?
4. How to identify Dharma and Adharma?
5. What to do to choose the right path?
6. How can a human being be freed from fear?

**Que 2. Explain a few central ideas of Buddhism. Briefly comment upon them.**

Ans: The main ideas of Buddhism are as follows:-

1. Four Noble Truths
  - i. Dukkha (suffering) is omnipresent in the world.
  - ii. This suffering arises due to craving (desire).
  - iii. Suffering can be ended by ending desires.
  - iv. Salvation is possible by following the Eightfold Path.
2. Eightfold Path:- Right vision, resolution, speech, action, livelihood, effort, memory and meditation.
3. Impermanence (Anicca) – Everything in the world is changeable, nothing is permanent.
4. Anatta – There is no permanent soul, only the flow of karmas continues.
5. Karma and rebirth – A person's karma decides his future, and causes rebirth.

**Que 3. Discuss in class the quotation of the Buddha which begins with "Not by water is one made pure, though many people may bathe here [in sacred rivers]" to make sure that its meaning has been understood by all.**

Ans: "Water cannot purify a person, while many people bathe here (in the holy river)."

**Meaning:-** Gautam Buddha wants to explain through this quote that inner purity is more important, not the purity obtained only by external bathing or religious rituals. If a person is not morally correct, is prone to violence, lies, greed and bad deeds, then he cannot be purified by bathing in a holy river only.

**Important points of discussion:**

1. Can a person become pure only by external cleanliness?
2. Is true purity in the mind, thoughts and actions or is it obtained only by religious rituals?
3. How can true purity be achieved according to Buddha?
4. Is this quote relevant in today's society?

**Conclusion:** This quote teaches that only religious rituals and external cleanliness will not do anything, but true purity comes from good thoughts, truth, non-violence and compassion.

**Que 4. Explain a few central ideas of Jainism. Briefly comment upon them.**

**Ans:** Some of the main ideas of Jainism are as follows:

1. Non-violence – Violence is considered the biggest sin in Jainism. It is forbidden to harm any living being physically, mentally or verbally.
2. Anekantavada – Truth is multidimensional. Every thing needs to be seen from different perspectives.
3. Aparigraha – Emphasis is laid on renouncing excessive material wealth and keeping only things as per the need.
4. Karma theory – Man's good or bad deeds determine his life and rebirth.
5. Moksha Marg – Moksha can be achieved by purifying the soul through truth, non-violence, penance, self-restraint and meditation.

**Brief note:-** Jainism emphasizes strict discipline and moral life for self-purification and attainment of salvation. Its teachings are still relevant today due to the principles of non-violence, truth and aparigraha and are a guide towards personal and social peace.

**Que 5. Consider and discuss in class André Beteille's thought (see page 122).**

**Ans:** Discussion points on Andre Beteille's statement:-

1. Thousands of castes and tribes have lived in India since ancient times.
2. Over time, these groups have adopted many religious and cultural practices from each other.
3. Example: Many folk deities (such as Bhairava, Kali, Munda deities etc.) later became part of the mainstream worship system.
4. Shared celebration of festivals: Like Durga Puja in Bengal, it is also celebrated in tribal areas.
5. Religious places: All castes and tribes have equal rights over many temples or pilgrimages.
6. Similarity in customs: Many similarities are also found in the rites of marriage, birth or death.
7. Unity in India is possible despite diversity because traditions are interconnected.

**Que 6. Make a list of popular gods and goddesses in your region and the festivals they are associated with.**

**Ans:**

Gods and Goddesses	Festivals associated with them
Lord Rama	Ram Navami, Dussehra
Goddess Durga	Navratri, Durga Puja
Lord Krishna	Janmastami
Lord Shiva	Mahashivratri
Lakshmi Mata	Diwali
Lord Ganesha	Ganesh Chaturthi
Lord Surya	Chhath Puja

**Que 7. As a class activity, list two or three tribal groups from region or State. Document some of their art and belief systems.**

**Ans:** Tribal Groups:

1. Bhil
2. Gond
3. Santhal

**Tradition and Belief System:**

1. Bhil: Worship nature. Trees, rivers and animals are their gods. Traditional dance and bow-arrow are their identity.
2. Gond: Worship nature and ancestors. Consider mountains and rivers sacred. Celebrate festivals like 'Karma' and 'Madai'.
3. Santhal: Follow "Sarna Dharma". Worship trees and nature. Dance and music are an important part of life.

**True or false**

1. The Vedic hymns were written on palm-leaf manuscripts.
2. The Vedas are India's oldest texts.
3. The Vedic statement *ekam sat viprā bahudhā vadanti* reflects a belief in the unity of cosmic powers.
4. Buddhism is older than the Vedas.
5. Jainism emerged as a branch of Buddhism.
6. Both Buddhism and Jainism advocated for peaceful coexistence and the avoidance of harm to all living beings.
7. Tribal belief systems are limited to belief in spirits and minor deities.

**Ans:**

1. The Vedic hymns were written on palm-leaf manuscripts. **True**
2. The Vedas are India's oldest texts. **True**
3. The Vedic statement *ekam sat viprā bahudhā vadanti* reflects a belief in the unity of cosmic powers. **True**
4. Buddhism is older than the Vedas. **false**
5. Jainism emerged as a branch of Buddhism. **false**
6. Both Buddhism and Jainism advocated for peaceful coexistence and the avoidance of harm to all living beings. **True**
7. Tribal belief systems are limited to belief in spirits and minor deities. **True**