

DR. R. N. INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

UNDER THE AGIS OF S. S. SITARAMSINGH EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE TRUST
MOHANPUR, SITAMARHI- 843302

7. The Cultural Roots of India

Exercise

A. Choose and tick (✓) the correct option

1. How many Vedas are there?
• **Answer: c. Four** (*Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, Atharvaveda*)
2. Who wrote the Mahabharata?
• **Answer: c. Ved Vyas**
3. Which of the following stages or ashrama means student life?
• **Answer: c. Brahmacharya**
4. The period during which the four Vedas were written is known as the:
• **Answer: c. Vedic Age**
5. The Rig Veda is divided into:
• **Answer: b. 10 mandalas**
6. The Buddhist religious texts are called:
• **Answer: b. Pitakas** (*Tripitakas*)
7. Who was the eldest son of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan?
• **Answer: c. Dara Shikoh**
8. According to Buddha freedom from suffering is possible by practising the:
• **Answer: a. Eightfold Path**
9. Jainism was founded by:
• **Answer: b. Mahavira** (*Class 6 curriculum standard*)
10. The number of main Upanishads is:
• **Answer: c. 11** (*Principal Upanishads out of 108*)

B. Fill in the blanks

1. The Ramayana was written by Valmiki.
2. The Rig Veda is the earliest Veda.
3. The Tripitakas / Pitakas is the earliest collection of Buddhist teachings.
4. The Early Vedic Period is also called the Rigvedic period.
5. The area in which the tribe lived was called a Ianapada.

6. The followers of Mahavira were called Jains.
7. Jainism / Buddhism believes in the theory of karma and rebirth.
8. The Buddha was also known as the 'enlightened one'.
9. Jainism got divided into two sects: Digambara and Svetambara.
10. Between 1500–1000 BCE, iron became known to the Aryan.

C. State True or False

1. Buddhism was later divided into four major branches. — **False** *(Divided into two major sects: Hinayana and Mahayana)*
2. The leader of the tribe was called a Raja/Rajan. — **True**
3. The Early Vedic People worshipped the Gods like Indra, Varun, Marut, and Agni. — **True**
4. Gautam Buddha was originally called Shantanu. — **False** *(His original name was Siddhartha)*
5. Women could not join Buddhist sanghas. — **False** *(Women were allowed to join as bhikkhunis)*
6. The Digambaras allow their followers to wear white clothes. — **False** *(Svetambaras wear white clothes; Digambaras do not wear clothes)*
7. The Rigveda is the oldest and most important of the Vedas. — **True**
8. Women were allowed to participate in the Sabha during the Later Vedic Period. — **False** *(Their participation was restricted in the Later Vedic Period)*
9. The Bhagavad Gita is a part of the Rigveda. — **False** *(It is an integral part of the Mahabharata)*
10. Early Aryan society was organised into tribes called "jana" or "vish". — **True**

D. Very Short Answer Questions

1. Write the names of the four Vedas of the Vedic period.

Answer: The four Vedas are:

- Rigveda
- Samaveda
- Yajurveda
- Atharvaveda

2. How many groups were the Jains divided into? Name them.

Answer: Jainism was divided into two main sects:

- Digambara (sky-clad; do not wear clothes)
- Svetambara (white-clad; wear white robes)

3. What do the hymns of the Rigveda tell us?

Answer: The hymns (suktas) praise various natural deities like Agni, Indra, and Varuna. They provide rich details about the religious beliefs, rituals, social life, prayers for cattle, children, and horses, and the daily livelihood of early Aryan society.

4. Explain the term Upanishad.

Answer: The term Upanishad literally means "sitting down near" a guru or teacher to receive confidential spiritual wisdom. These texts are composed as philosophical dialogues between teachers and students exploring the soul (Atman) and universal reality (Brahman).

5. What are Viharas?

Answer: Viharas were permanent monasteries or shelters constructed out of rock caves or bricks to serve as living quarters and places of meditation for Buddhist and Jain monks and nuns (bhikkhus and bhikkhunis) during the monsoon season and throughout the year.

6. Who was called Raja/Rajan?

Answer: The chosen chief or leader of an Aryan tribe (jana) was called Raja or Rajan. He led his people in defense and battles, protected their livestock, and performed major sacrifices with priests.

7. How did Pitakas and Nikayas come into existence?

Answer: After the passing away of Gautama Buddha, his chief disciples convened Buddhist Councils (sangitis) to preserve and codify his verbal discourses. His teachings and monastic rules were recited, classified, and divided into three main 'baskets' (Tripitakas), with discourses systematically structured into collections known as Nikayas.

E. Short Answer Questions & F. Long Answer Questions Overview

Key reference answers for subsequent textbook questions:

- **Duties of a Vedic King (E.1):** Defending the tribe against rival clans, leading warriors in battle, safeguarding cattle, maintaining tribal customs, and performing sacred yajnas.
- **Sabha and Samiti (E.2):** Assemblies that advised the Rajan. The Sabha was a smaller council of elders and distinguished leaders, while the Samiti was a general assembly of all tribe members.
- **Social Division of Aryans (E.3):** Varna system dividing society into four classes based on occupation: Brahmins (priests/scholars), Kshatriyas (rulers/warriors), Vaishyas (farmers/traders), and Shudras (laborers/servitors).
- **Four Noble Truths of Buddha (E.4):** 1. Life is full of suffering (Dukkha). 2. Suffering is caused by desire (Tanha). 3. Suffering ends when desire ceases (Nirodha). 4. The path to end suffering is the Eightfold Path (Magga).