



GS Advanced Program 2023

Generic Booklet

Test Name/Code/No. :691043

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Allotted Time : 60 Minutes

Instructions to Candidates -

- There are 7 Questions in this Question paper.
- All Questions are Compulsory.
- For all updates, please visit the noticeboard - <https://noticeboard.forumias.com/gsap-2023/>

Important -

- Answers must be attempted in the QCA Booklet only.
- To upload the Answer Copies please visit to "My Course" section on - <https://academy.forumias.com/>
- Only those copies will be evaluated which will be submitted before the next class.

Q. No.	Grade/Score
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Overall Grade/Score	

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Start Writing Here

Q.1) Temple of free standing nature started emerging during Gupta period which later got a regional specifications in the form of Nagara, Dravida & Vesara.

NAGARA

- It is found in Northern Region

DRAVIDA

- Southern part of India

VESARA

- Deccan Region



- Developed Regionally
 - ↳ Solanki (west)
 - ↳ Odisha (east)
 - ↳ Chandela (center)

- Developed Dynastically
 - ↳ Pallava
 - ↳ Chola
 - ↳ Nayaka
 - ↳ Pravidya

- Hybrid form, both regionally & dynastical

- curvilinear: shikhara is present over Kalbhagika

- pyramidal ~~shikhara~~ vimana over main sanctum

- pyramidal but smaller height (miniature vimana)

Q.2)

NAGARA

Gopurams are absent

multiple Shikhara's are there

Temple tank's not present (generally River or near)

compound walls are absent

DRAVIDA

Gopurams (Gateways) are present

multiple shrines or subsidiary shrines are there

Temple Tank is there

compound walls present

VESARA

Gopurams may or may not be there

shrines of different deities

may or may not be there

may or may not be there

These three types of temple architecture depicts the regional diversity & evolution of the different regions

Overall Grading (✓)

Poor			Average			Good		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

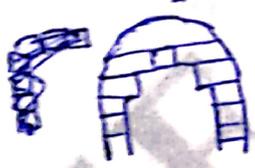
Q2) Indigenous art of India since Harappan period was focused on specific features which intertwined with Islamic to create Indo-Islamic art & architecture

HYBRID ART FORMS CREATED

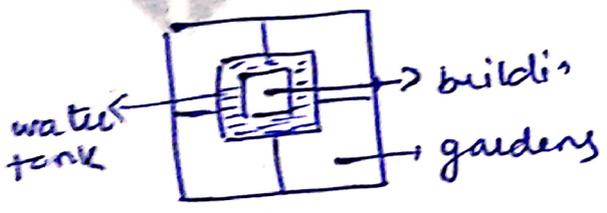
- Arches & Minarets along with Trabecate style (Lintels & Beams)



- from corbelled to true Arches



- Charbagh style of architecture (Mughal architecture)



- Incorporation of decorative items

sculptures from Indian style (of animals, trees, plants) along with Arabesque pietra dura.

- Use of Jhorokhas, Talis, etc from Indian style along with Islamic Double domes. (Ex) ⇒ Taj Mahal

Indo-Islamic architecture was created due to confluence of the two techniques leading to new unique art form having new features. It was due to use of architects & masons from different regions, openness to accepting new elements & quest for innovation

Overall Grading (✓)

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Q.3)

Gandhara school of art belong to 200 BCE - 200 AD which was patronised by Kushana Rule Kanishka in Taxila Region of Afghanistan.

This school has the confluence of Indo-Roman & Greek art forms: →

INDO-ROMAN

→ Buddhist theme was depicted by the Gandhara school which was prominent in India at that point of time. (Mahayana Buddhism)

→ Drapery used is inspired from the Roman art

GREEK

→ Buddha's sculptures resembles the Greek God Apollo

→ Anatomical details & accuracy as seen in Hellenistic art

was visible in the Gandhara art as well

- Use of Halo & Bun in Buddhist idols was Greek incorporation
- Curlly Hairs & Mustache was sometimes seen in Gandhara sculptures

Gandhara school of art became a distinguished Greco-Roman art with ~~art~~ which can be seen in Bamiyan, Hadda, Begara region Buddha's of the region

Overall Grading (✓)

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Q.4)

Rock-cut architecture started in Mauyan period in the form of caves, temples, viharas & chaitya, pillars etc which forms an important source of knowledge.

ROCK-CUT ARCHITECTURE ⇒ INFORMATION

HISTORY

- Information about Indian philosophy & Religious ideas :- (Ex)

Barabar hills of Ashoka & Nagarjuni hills of Pasarpatta were dedicated to Ajivika sect

- Co-existence & trade routes :- (Ex) Ajanta, Ellora, Bagha in western parts and Ndaygiri & Khandagiri are important ~~was~~ trade routes

- Ellora → Jainism
→ Buddhism
→ Hinduism

- Dynasties & their succession can also be traced through these

INDIAN ART

Rock-cut architecture => superiority of India's artistic expressions

(Ex) Mauryan rock cut pillars => highly polished, Dhauli Elephant

Depiction of Narrative cut on Rock-cut caves -> (Ex)

(Ajanta) => Padampani, Mara Vijaya and high quality of sculptures

Rock-cut architecture, not only tells about art & history, rather social & economic aspects of India's early period.

Overall Grading (✓)

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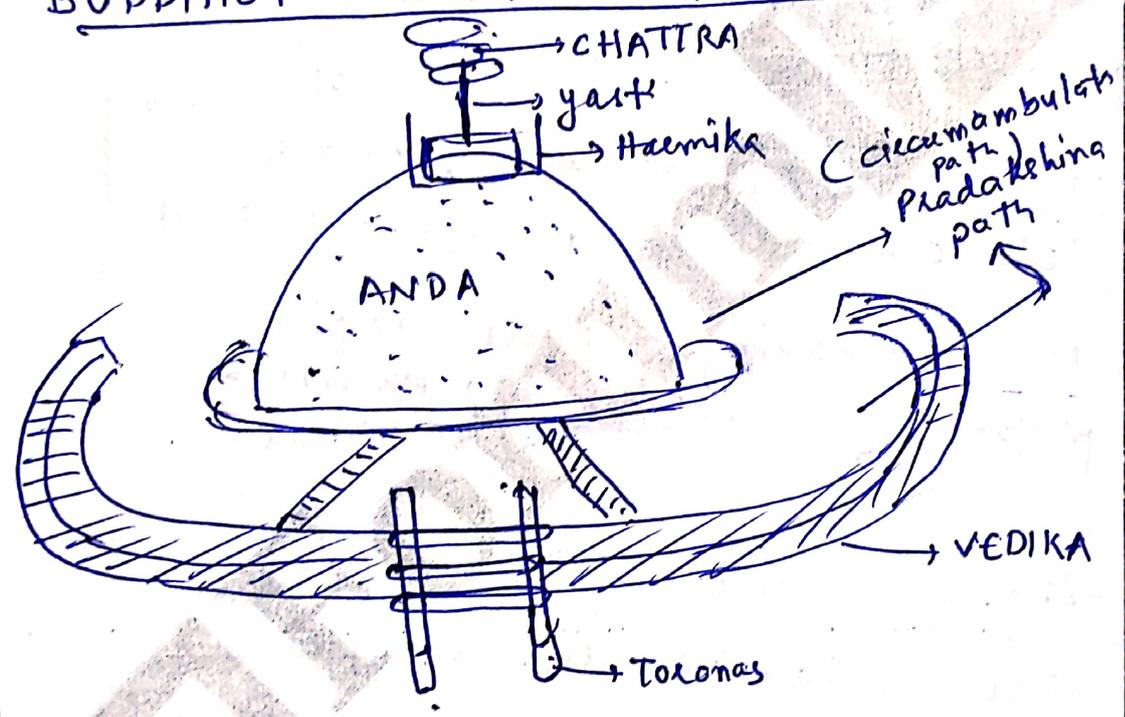
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Q.5)

stupas are the only monuments having both the crematory and religious significance. Buddhist stupas are important pieces that expand the vision of the ideals of the sect.

BUDDHIST IDEALS BY STUPA



- The stupa depicts the stages of the Birth, renunciation, enlightenment and parinirvana along with sermons of Buddha

- Toranas have depictions of Jataka stories (Ex) \Rightarrow queen Mahamaya dream (Elephant entering womb), deer rescuing Man (Rueu Jataka)
- Anda \rightarrow Hemispherical dome filled with earth depicts the universe mountain having relics at the top in a casket
- Yasti \rightarrow a shaft on top of Anda depicts connection of universe & heaven
- Chhatra \rightarrow having 3 parts depicts 3 pillars of Buddhism \rightarrow Buddha, Sangha, Dhamma
- Vedika \rightarrow depicts the seclusion of secular world from the religious world

Hence stupas are enmeshed with various symbols as can be seen in Sanchi, Amravati, Bhakt stupa

Q.6) Medieval Indian sculptures at temples are profusely covered with sculptures as seen in chola temples, Khandela temples etc.

SOCIAL LIFE DEPICTED BY THESE SCULPTURES

- Religious narratives & folklore is depicted on the temple sculptures
- (Ex) Ramayana & Mahabharata scenes are depicted on the temple sculptures
- Dances, community life of that period can be witnessed.
- (Ex) Chidambaram Temple in Tamil Nadu \Rightarrow Bharatnatyam poses are depicted
- Jagannath Puri \Rightarrow Odissi Dance poses

- Belief system & society's on unique aspects → (Ex) In Khajuraho, Erotic sculptures are made on the outside walls that are believed to be mark of progressive society & mature society
- The relationship of kings with public or depictions of such relations (Ex) Vijainagar Rules placed the subsidiary shrines for king & queen thereby confirming their view of them being equivalent to gods,
- Early medieval period sculptures tells about scientific progress of the society
(Ex) ⇒ ~~show~~ Konark Temple having sculptures depicting 12 wheels and a chariot have sundials

Temple sculptures not just depicts art, social aspects rather economic prosperity of region, political & aspects of the period.

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Q.7) Animal figures have been prominent part of India's faith, art & architecture as well as folklore since Harappan times.

SIGNIFICANCE OF LION

MYTHOLOGY

- The story of Narasimha or the half man & half Lion is popular depiction of religious freedom where Hiranyakashipu was killed by his son prahlad
- Depicts vehicle of Goddess Lakshmi
- Buddhist symbolism

ART & ARCHITECTURE

- Lion can be seen on the seals of Harappan Dynasty
- Lion capital (National Emblem) depicting 4 lions erected on the Ashokan pillar having spoked

wheel & 4 animals (of which 1 is lion)

SIGNIFANCE OF BULL

~~MYTHOLOGY~~ ART & ARCHITECTURE

- Bull is associated with fertility & fearlessness. Harappan seals have high number of bull figures.
A seals depicting humped bull
- Rampurva bull of Ashokan pillar
- Bhimbetka paintings has bull depictions

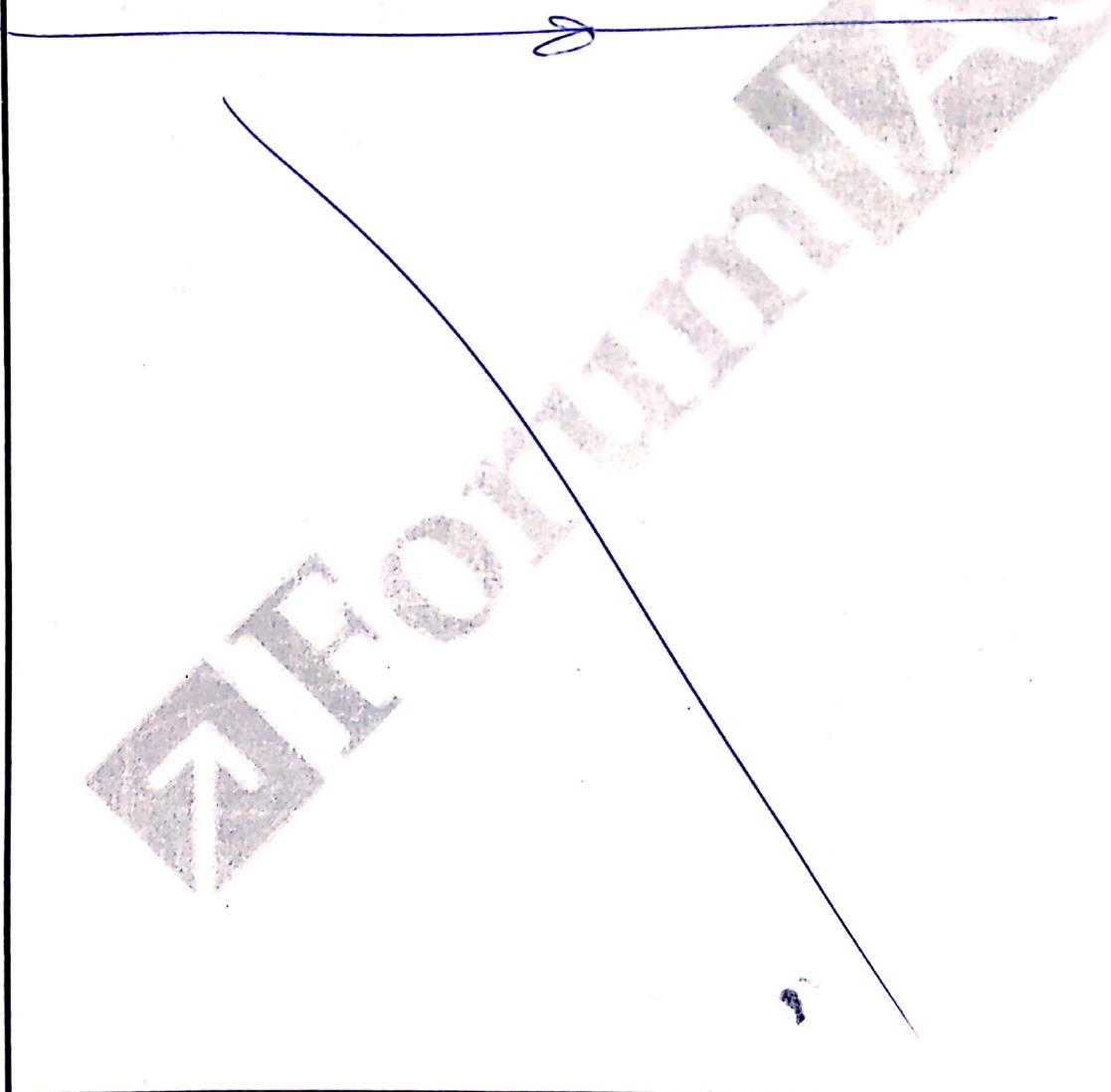
MYTHOLOGY

- Buddhist philosophy considers bull as mark of Boddhisattvas & Adinath is also shown as bull
- Nandi Bull \Rightarrow associated with Shiva & is also vehicle.
- ~~Many~~

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Bull & Lion are considered as marks of strength, power & fearlessness. The usage of these in narratives, art & folklore & mythology explains their importance.



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