



Pre-Mix

History

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Buddhism & Jainism

Q 1. Consider the following statements with respect to Buddhism and Jainism.

1. Pali and Prakrit were the prominent languages that were used by Buddhism and Jainism to propagate the teachings of their religion.
2. Both Buddhism and Jainism believed that everything in nature, every living and non-living thing has a soul of its own.
3. Both Buddhism and Jainism allowed women & shudras to follow religion, become monks & attain salvation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: D

Explanation

- Both Buddhism and Jainism had some similarities in their teachings.
- Both rejected the authority of Vedas, emphasised on renunciation and human effort as the means of obtaining salvation, and established a monastic order for both men and women.
- Like Buddhism, Jainism is fundamentally atheistic; though it recognises the existence of gods, yet it refuses to give them importance in the universal scheme of themes and places the gods lower than Jina (the conqueror).

- Like Buddhism monastic order, people of all castes and social backgrounds were welcomed in Jainism.
- Like Buddhist texts, Jaina texts criticise the Brahmanas, their practice of animal sacrifices, and ritual authority giving preference to Brahmanas.
- Method of attaining salvation for Jains was extreme one, for Buddhas-moderate.
- Jainism was confined to India, but survived here. Buddhism spread rapidly to foreign lands but died in India
- Jainism laid overemphasis on Ahimsa, Buddhism was practical.

Q 2. Consider the following pairs:

Pitakas :: Content

1. Sutta Pitaka :: Rules for monks and nuns of the monastic order
2. Vinaya Pitaka :: contains a thorough study and systemisation of the teachings of the Sutta Pitaka
3. Vinaya Pitaka :: contains the Buddha's discourses on various doctrinal issues

Which of the above pairs are incorrect?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

- All branches of Buddhism have the Tripitaka as part of their core scriptures, which comprises three books – the Sutta (conventional teaching), the Vinaya (disciplinary code), and the Abhidhamma (moral psychology).
- Sutta Pitaka (Sutra/Basket of Discourses)
 - Buddha's discourses on various doctrinal issues.
 - Also known as 'Buddhavacana' or 'the word of the Buddha'.
 - Discourses were arranged on the basis of the manner in which they were delivered.
 - Accepted by all Buddhist schools.
- Vinaya Pitaka (Discipline Basket)
 - Rules for monks and nuns of the monastic order (Sangha).
 - Patimokka – a list of transgressions against monastic discipline and atonements for these.
 - Also include doctrinal expositions, ritual texts, biographical stories, and some elements of the 'Jatakas' or 'birth stories'.
- Abhidhamma Pitaka (Basket of Higher Teachings)
 - Thorough study and systemisation of the teachings of the Sutta Pitaka through summaries, questions and answers, lists, etc.

Q 3. Which one of the following statements correctly describes the buddhist term "Pavarana"?

- A. One who strives to realise the truth.
- B. Female followers who have taken refuge in the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha, but who have not taken monastic vows.
- C. Ordination ceremony when the novice becomes a full-fledged member of the monastic community.
- D. Buddhist holy day which marks the end of the rainy season, sometimes called 'Buddhist Lent'.

Answer: D

Explanation

- Some important Key Terms/Concepts:
 - Chaityas: Prayer halls of monks
 - Viharas: Monasteries
 - Pravrajya: Ceremony to mark a person's going forth from home into homelessness and his/her becoming a novice under a preceptor.
 - Bodhisattva: Enlightened beings who have renounced their own salvation and put off entering paradise in order to help others attain enlightenment.
 - Bhikkhu: Sangha Sangha of monks
 - Bhikkhuni: Sangha Sangha of nuns
- Pavarana: A Buddhist holy-day celebrated on Aashvin full moon of the lunar month.

- It marks the end of the rainy season, sometimes called 'Buddhist Lent'.
- On this day, each monk must come before the community of monks (Sangha) and atone for an offense he may have committed during the Vassa (rainy season).

Q 4. Consider the following statements with respect to Jainism.

1. To achieve liberation of the soul, a Jain must follow the three jewels of Jain ethics, popularly called Triratna.
2. In order to help attain Triratna one must observe Pancha Mahavrata.
3. Derridhiganj presided over the 2nd Jain Council which was held at Patliputra.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 3 only

Answer: A

Explanation

- To achieve liberation of the soul, a Jain must follow the three jewels of Jain ethics, popularly called Triratna. They are:
 - Right faith (Samyag darshana)
 - Right knowledge (Samyag jnana)
 - Right conduct (Samyag charitra)

- In order to help attain Triratna one must observe Pancha Mahavrata (five great vows):

- Non-violence (Ahimsa)
- Truth (Satya)
- Non-stealing (Achaurya or Asteya)
- Celibacy/Chastity (Brahmacharya, added by Mahavira)
- Non-attachment/Non-possession (Aparigraha)

- Jain Councils

- 1st Council: Held in the year 310 BCE at Patliputra. President: Sthulabhadra
- 2nd Council: Held in the year 453 or 466 at Vallabhi (Gujarat). President: Derridhiganj

Q 5. Which of the following architectures are related to Buddhist religion?

1. Ellora Caves
2. Elephanta Caves
3. Ajanta Caves
4. Barabara Caves

Select the correct code

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: B

Explanation

Ellora Caves

- These 34 monasteries and temples, extending over more than 2 km, were dug side by side in the wall of a high basalt cliff, not far from Aurangabad, in Maharashtra.
- Not only is the Ellora complex a unique artistic creation and a technological exploit but, with its sanctuaries devoted to Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism, it illustrates the spirit of tolerance that was characteristic of ancient India.
- The Elephanta Caves are located in Western India on Elephanta Island (otherwise known as the Island of Gharapuri), which features two hillocks separated by a narrow valley.
 - The Elephanta Caves are a collection of cave temples predominantly dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva.
- One of the oldest caves in the country, the Ajanta Caves are 30 odd rock-cut caves that date back to the second century BC.
 - These Buddhist monuments are known for their murals, paintings and sculptures that have defined Indian art over time.
 - Today, they are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India.
- Even though there were 30 caves, they were built in two phases and provided shelter to Buddhist monks who came here to meditate during the monsoon.
- Barabar caves are a set of 7 rock-cut-caves dating back to the third century BC. These are located on the twin hills of Barabar and Nagarjuni.
- The inscription in the Sudama cave informs that the four caves on Barabar hill were assigned by King Ashoka to Ajivika monks in 261 BC.
- Another inscription on the Nagarjuni hill is of the grandson of King Ashoka, Dasaratha Maurya, which tells that the Ajivikas continued to enjoy imperial Mauryan patronage for long.