

ST. ANDREWS SCOTS SCHOOL

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CLASS: VI	SUB: SOCIAL SCIENCE	TOPIC: CULTURE AND TRADITION	CH-2
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2025-26

INDIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

A. Tick() the correct option.

1. Buddha preached _____ towards all living beings. **Non-violence**
2. What is the compilation of Buddha's teachings called? **The Tripitakas**
3. In which language did Mahavira preach? **Prakrit**
4. Which festival is celebrated by tribal communities in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand?
Hareli

B. Fill in the blanks with appropriate word/words.

1. Gautam Buddha delivered his first sermon at Sarnath, Varanasi.
2. Tribal communities in India have their own belief systems and practices.
3. Indian culture emphasises a deep reverence for nature, the search for truth and non-violence.
4. Setting the wheel of dharma in motion is called the best Dharmchakra Parivartan.
5. The three Pitakas were Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka and Abhidhamma Pitaka.

C. Write 'T' for true or 'F' for false statements.

1. The Middle Path meant that a person should neither lead a life of absolute suffering nor live in total luxury. **True**
2. Jains were divided into three sects. **False**
3. Buddha was born as a Brahmin prince. **False**

4. Mahavira and Buddha became very popular because they preached in the local language and welcomed all with love. **True**
5. Tribal and folk traditions in India are deeply rooted in nature. **True**

D. Short answer questions.

1. Give a brief account of Gautam Buddha's early life.

Gautama Buddha whose real name was Siddhartha Gautama. He was a Kshatriya prince born in Lumbini (now in Nepal). He led a life of luxury but renounced it after witnessing suffering. He wandered like an ascetic for six years and attained enlightenment under a peepal tree at Bodh Gaya in Bihar.

2. What is meant by the Middle Path?

The Middle Path meant that a person should neither lead a life of absolute suffering nor live in total luxury. A balanced life would help a person to get freedom from the cycle of birth and death and attain Moksha.

3. List the triratna propagated by Mahavira.

Mahavira propagated the triratna or the three jewels. These were:

1. Right belief.
2. Right knowledge.
3. Right action.

4. What is meant by Dharmchakra Parivartan?

Buddha gave his first sermon at Sarnath near Varanasi. This event is called Dharmchakra Parivartan which means 'setting the wheel of dharma in motion'.

5. Mention two characteristics of Indian Tribal Communities.

Two characteristics of Indian Tribal Communities are:-

1. Worship of nature.
2. Unique customs and traditions.

E. Long answer questions.

1. How did Siddhartha come to be known as Buddha?

Siddhartha lived a protected life in his palace. At the age of 29, he saw an old man, a sick man and a dead body for the first time during a visit outside the palace. He

also saw a peaceful ascetic. These experiences deeply affected him and he decided to leave his palace, wife and son to search for the truth about suffering. He wandered like an ascetic for six years and attained enlightenment under a peepal tree at Bodh Gaya in Bihar. He realised that ignorance and attachment cause human suffering. The tree became known as the Bodhi tree and since then Siddhartha was called the Buddha meaning 'the Enlightened One'.

2. What were the teachings of Mahavira?

The teachings of Mahavira were the following:-

1. Mahavira preached that people should live a simple life.
2. He was against the Brahmanical order which complicated the life of the people with rituals and evils of caste system.
3. He denounced sacrifices of animals and preached that every living being has a soul.
4. He told his followers to practice ahimsa.

3. Explain the Noble Eight Fold Path of Buddha.

The Noble Eight Fold Path consists of :-

1. Right understanding
2. Right intent
3. Right speech
4. Right action
5. Right means of livelihood
6. Right effort
7. Right mindfulness
8. Right concentration

4. Why do you think Buddha and Mahavira spread their teachings in local languages ?

Buddha and Mahavira spread their teachings in Prakrit and Pali, the languages spoken by common people, instead of Sanskrit, which was used by the upper classes. By using local languages:

1. Their messages reached a wider audience, including farmers, traders and labourers.
2. They made spiritual teachings accessible to all, promoting equality.

3. Their ideas spread rapidly, as people could easily understand and follow them. This approach helped both religions gain widespread acceptance and influence Indian society deeply.

5. Why is the Banyan tree considered a symbol of connection to ancient roots?

The long history of interaction is symbolised by the banyan tree which represents the deep, intertwined roots of India's cultural heritage. Just as the tree has branches that grow and spread, Indian culture has evolved while staying connected to its ancient roots.