

**BOARD-PATTERN PRACTICE PAPER · CBSE CLASS 12****Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings: Cultural Developments (c. 600 BCE – 600 CE)**

History · Chapter 4 · Matches current CBSE blueprint · Each question PYQ-sourced where indicated

DATE	TOTAL MARKS	DURATION	MARKING	TARGET
_____	<b>26</b>	<b>55 min</b>	<b>As per board</b>	<b>≥ 20/26</b>

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- All compulsory.
- Specific facts (names, terms, dates) mandatory for full marks.
- Source-based questions require quoting/referencing evidence from the passage.
- Always distinguish the textual / ideological NORM from actual practice where relevant.

**Section A — VSA (1 mark × 4)****4 MARKS · 8 MIN**

- Q1.** Who deciphered the Brahmi script and in which year? [PYQ 2024 Delhi] **[1 mark]**
- Q2.** Name the hemispherical dome at the core of a stupa. [PYQ 2020 All India] **[1 mark]**
- Q3.** Who was Mahavira? [PYQ 2019 Delhi] **[1 mark]**
- Q4.** What is meant by anekantavada? [PYQ 2023 Delhi] **[1 mark]**

**Section B — SA-I (3 marks × 2)****6 MARKS · 12 MIN**

- Q5.** Describe the structure of a stupa. (any 3 points) [PYQ 2020 Delhi] **[3 marks]**
- Q6.** Briefly explain the main features of the Mahayana school of Buddhism. (any 3 points) [PYQ 2024 All India] **[3 marks]**

**Section C — SA-II (5 marks × 2)****10 MARKS · 20 MIN**

- Q7.** Explain the main teachings of the Buddha and the role of the Sangha in spreading them. [PYQ 2022 Delhi] **[5 marks]**
- Q8.** Discuss the main principles of Jainism with special reference to Mahavira's teachings. [PYQ 2024 All India] **[5 marks]**

**Section D — Source-based (6 marks)****6 MARKS · 15 MIN**

- Q9.** Read the passage and answer the 3 sub-questions. **PASSAGE:** 'The Great Stupa at Sanchi was first built as a brick mound under the emperor Ashoka in the third century BCE. In later centuries it was enlarged, faced with stone, and surrounded by a great stone railing. Four richly carved gateways (toranas) were added at the cardinal directions; on them craftsmen carved jataka tales, scenes from the life of the Buddha shown by symbols, processions of devotees, and folk motifs of yakshas and yakshis. When European travellers reached the site in the early nineteenth century, the monument had begun to suffer from neglect and from the depredations of treasure-hunters. It was preserved through the funding given by the Begums of Bhopal — Shahjehan Begum and Sultan Jehan Begum — who paid for a museum and for the publication of John Marshall's volumes, and through the campaigns of officials like H.H. Cole. The mahachaitya at Amaravati, in contrast, fared very differently.' **SUB-QUESTIONS:** (a) What does the passage tell you about how Sanchi was built and decorated? (b) Why did Sanchi survive while Amaravati was largely lost? (c) What does this episode reveal about the history of preservation of Indian monuments? [PYQ 2023 All India] **[6 marks]**

**Marking scheme & model answers** — see companion Answer Key PDF · all PYQs traceable to actual CBSE papers · readyforboards.com · +91 70330 05444