

EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

# Thinkers, Beliefs and Buildings: Cultural Developments (c. 600 BCE – 600 CE)

Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.

## FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS

**TIME FRAME:** c. 600 BCE – 600 CE. Religious ferment of the 6th c. BCE — Upanishads, Buddha, Mahavira, fatalists, materialists

**BUDDHA:** Siddhartha Gautama, Shakya clan, c. 563-483 BCE; enlightenment at BODH GAYA under the Bodhi tree; first sermon at SARNATH; death (mahaparinibbana) at KUSINARA

**FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS:** world is suffering / suffering caused by desire / removing desire ends suffering / Eightfold Path is the way

**EIGHTFOLD PATH (8):** right view, intention, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, concentration

**THREE JEWELS (Buddhism):** BUDDHA + DHAMMA + SANGHA. SANGHA = order of bhikshus/bhikshunis open to all varnas

**MAHAVIRA:** 24th Tirthankara, c. 599-527 BCE. TRIRATNA = right faith, right knowledge, right conduct. 5 VOWS = ahimsa, satya, asteya, brahmacharya, aparigraha

**ANEKANTAVADA + SYADVADA:** many-sidedness of truth — Jaina philosophical tolerance

**STUPA PARTS:** ANDA (dome) + HARMIKA (square railing) + YASHTI (mast) + CHHATRI (umbrella) + VEDIKA (railing) + 4 TORANAS (gateways).  
Worship = PRADAKSHINA (clockwise)

**SANCHI:** Great Stupa, Madhya Pradesh, begun by Ashoka, expanded later; preserved by Begums of BHOPAL + H.H. COLE; jataka + folk reliefs on toranas

## TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS

### 1 Main teachings of the Buddha (Four Noble Truths + Eightfold Path + Sangha)

8 marks · 95% of years

5-step template: context + 4 Noble Truths + 8 Path + Sangha + conclusion.

### 2 Source-based on Sanchi/Amaravati or a Buddhist passage

5 marks · 100% of years

Identify site/text + explain meaning + historian's use.

### 3 Stupa structure and worship

5 marks · 70% of years

Define + parts (anda/harmika/yashti/torana) + pradakshina + Sanchi example.

### 4 Jainism — Mahavira, Triratna, five vows, anekantavada

5 marks · 65% of years

Mahavira + Triratna + 5 mahavratas + anekantavada + conclusion.

### 5 Sanchi vs Amaravati / Brahmi decipherment / preservation

3 marks · 55% of years

Preservation by Bhopal Begums + Cole; Amaravati slabs lost; Prinsep deciphered Brahmi 1837.

## 90-MIN REVISION FLOW

### 0-15 min

Memorise dates (Buddha 563-483 BCE, Mahavira 599-527 BCE, Prinsep 1837), the Four Noble Truths, the 8 steps of the Eightfold Path.

### 15-30 min

Write the 'main teachings of the Buddha' answer from memory using the 5-step template. Time: 12 minutes.

### 30-45 min

Draw a stupa with all four parts labelled (anda/harmika/yashti/chhatra + vedika + torana). Add the Sanchi caption.

### 45-60 min

Write the Jainism 5-mark answer (Mahavira → Triratna → 5 vows → anekantavada).

### 60-75 min

Take the 15-MCQ Quick Drill under a 20-min timer.

### 75-90 min

Review wrong answers; memorise key names — Sukthankar is for Ch 3; here: Prinsep, H.H. Cole, Begums of Bhopal, Sanchi, Amaravati, Bharhut.

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh;  
great mahachaitya; slabs  
CARTED AWAY in 19th c.,  
monument largely lost —  
opposite fate to Sanchi

MAHAYANA (1st c. CE+):  
Bodhisattva ideal, image  
worship; HINAYANA /  
THERAVADA = older, symbol-  
only (empty seat, wheel,  
footprints)

BHAGAVATISM: devotion to  
VISHNU, Bhagavad Gita; Puranic  
Hinduism around Vishnu/Shiva/  
Devi; BHAKTI = personal-god  
devotion

JAMES PRINSEP (1837):  
deciphered BRAHMI script  
using 'danam' on Sanchi  
inscriptions — unlocked  
Ashoka's edicts

H.H. COLE: pushed for  
preservation of Sanchi/other  
stupas — the 'monuments of  
ancient India should be  
preserved' campaign

**Confidence, not anxiety.** You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning.  
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