

## VERY SHORT QUESTIONS

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1. Into how many categories the religions which originated during the 6th century B.C. can be divided?
2. Throw light on the significance of the Vedas.
3. Why are the followers of Mahavira Swami known as Jains?
4. What do you mean by Tri-ratna?
5. Which are the four basic truths of Buddhism?
6. What do you mean by 'Dharma Chakra Pravartana'?
7. Mention the various incarnations of Vishnu according to Vaishnavism.
8. Why the Stupas were built?
9. Mention four places associated with the life of the Buddha.
10. What do you mean by Jataka texts?
11. Mention any four social groups from which the followers of Buddha came. (Delhi 2010)
12. What does the motif of a woman, surrounded by lotuses and elephants depict? Mention the two opinions. (AI 2010)
13. What did Siddhartha do to attain enlightenment? After enlightenment what was he known as? (Foreign 2010)
14. Mention one of the unique features of early temples built during 600 BCE–600 CE. Give one example. (Foreign 2010)

## ANSWERS TO VERY SHORT QUESTIONS

1. The religious sects of the 6th century can be divided into two categories: (i) the faiths which were openly against Vedic religion, (ii) the faiths which did not oppose Vedic religion openly but propagated new principles venerating one or the other old divinity.
2. The Vedas are the most significant texts of the vedic literature. There are four Vedas: the Rigveda, the Samveda, the Yajurveda and the Atharvaveda. The Rigveda is the oldest of the vedic texts. It throws significant light on the religious, social, economic and political life of the ancient Aryans. The Samveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda provide information regarding the Aryan life during Later Vedic (C. 1000 B.C. – 600 B.C.) period.
3. The term 'Jaina' has been derived from Sanskrit word 'Jina' meaning a 'conqueror' i.e., a person who has conquered all his desires. Thus, the followers of Jina are known as the Jainas and the religion they follow is known as 'Jainism'.
4. According to Jainism, Moksha or salvation can be attained by observing Tri-ratna or three jewels. These are: (i) Right knowledge, (ii) Right faith, (iii) Right action.
5. The four basic truths of Buddhism are: (i) The whole world is full of sorrow, (ii) All sufferings have a cause, (iii) Sorrow can be ended, (iv) There is a way to end sorrow.
6. Dharmachakra Pravartana means 'setting in motion the wheel of Dharma'. The first religious discourse or sermon delivered by Mahatma Buddha after attaining enlightenment at Mrig dav or Deer Park of Sarnath near Varanasi, is known as 'Mahachakra Pravartana'.
7. According to Vaishnavism there are ten incarnations of Vishnu. These are: Matsya, Kurma, Varaha, Narsimha, Vamana, Parsurama, Rama, Krishna, Buddha and Kalki (yet to assume form).
8. The stupas were built over sacred relics like tooth, ashes either of the Buddha himself or of a sacred monk or a sacred text. The relics were generally placed in a casket in a smaller chamber in the centre of the base of the Stupa.
9. (i) Lumbini (Birth place of the Buddha)  
(ii) Kapilvastu (The Buddha was brought up here)  
(iii) Bodhi Gaya (The Buddha attained enlightenment here)  
(iv) Sarnath (The Buddha delivered his first religious discourse here).
10. The Jatakas are Buddhist texts in Pali. They deal with the previous births of Buddha. They are around 549 in number.
11. The followers of Buddha belonged to many social groups including kings, wealthy men and gahapatis and also humbler folks such as workers, slaves and crafts people.
12. In the figure of a woman surrounded by lotuses and elephants, the elephants have been depicted sprinkling water on woman as consecration: (i) Some historians identify this sculpture with Maya, the mother of Buddha (ii) Some identify it with Gajalakshmi, the goddess of good fortune.
13. Siddhartha abandoned the way of rigid austerities to attain enlightenment. He went to Uruvela and sat under a pipal tree in meditation. Here he attained enlightenment on 49th day of his continuous meditation. Since then he came to be known as the 'Buddha' (the enlightened one).
14. (i) The early temples had a square room known as the Garbhagriha. (ii) The walls of the temple were decorated with beautiful pieces of sculpture. As Dashavatara Temple of Deogarh.