



STEPPING STONE  
SCHOOL (HIGH)

CLASS :9

**Subject:History**  
**Topic: The Vedic Period**

### ***Answers to Worksheet No.:1***

*Date :28 April,2020*

1)

The Vedic literature can be classified into the following categories:

- (i) The four Vedas, i.e., the Rig, Sama, Yajur and Atharva Vedas and their Samhitas.
- (ii) The Brahmanas attached to each Samhita
- (iii) The Aranyakas
- (iv) The Upanishads.

2)

### The Importance of the Epics

(i) The Epics serve as the main source of information on the political institutions and the social and cultural organisation of the Epic Age.

(ii) They provide information on various Aryan Kingdoms, their armies and the weapons they used. The Kshatriyas were entrusted with the defence of their kingdoms and they believed that death on the battlefield was the noblest act in the life of a warrior.

(iii) The Epics are considered as the finest literary works of the ancient period and are acclaimed for their literary and philosophical value.

(iv) They reveal the high ideals of family life of the Aryans.

The important sites include Bhagwanpura (Kurukshetra), Dadheri (Ludhiana), Katpalan and Nagar (Jalandhar).

3)

4)

Iron was a harder metal than copper and bronze. It was cheap and available in plenty. Iron deposits were found over large areas; so man could use iron to make a livelihood. It was used in the following areas:

(i) Agriculture: Discovery of iron gave the Aryans new implements like axes to clear the forest and cultivate the land. Thus, agriculture became their important occupation. with the use of iron plough-heads, sickles and hoes, they could bring vast tracts of land under cultivation. The production of more rice, wheat, barley, vegetables and fruits improved their standard of living.

(ii) *Occupation*: The use of iron gave rise to new trades by providing durable implements like saws, chisels, hammers, nails and tongs. This gave rise to occupations such as weaving, spinning, carpentry, tanning and tool-making.

(iii) *Defence*: Because of its durability and easy availability, iron was extensively used in making weapons of war like swords, armours and shields.

5)

#### THE FOUR ASHRAMAS

In the Early Vedic Period, man grew up according to the family traditions. However, in the Later Vedic Period, the whole lifespan of an Aryan came to be divided into four periods. The four stages of life are known as four *ashramas*, each of 25 years duration. The four *ashramas* are *Brahmacharya*, *Grihastha*, *Vanaprastha* and *Sanyasa*.

The *Brahmacharya Ashrama* lasted upto the age of 25 years. During this period, the pupil was expected to acquire knowledge in the *gurukul* and observe strict discipline.

During the period of the *Grihastha Ashrama*, man was supposed to marry and raise a family. As a householder, he was to take responsibility of maintaining his family. This period lasted from the age of 25 to 50 years.

The third stage was *Vanaprastha Ashrama*. It lasted from the age of 50 to 75 years. During this period man was expected to retire from worldly life and acquire spiritual and philosophical knowledge.

The last stage lasting from the age of 75 to 100 years was the *Sanyasa Ashrama*. This was the period of renunciation. Man had to leave everything forever and go into meditation in order to attain *moksha* or salvation.

### *Sanyasa.*

The *Brahmacharya Ashrama* lasted upto the age of 25 years. During this period, the pupil was expected to acquire knowledge in the *gurukul* and observe strict discipline.

During the period of the *Grihastha Ashrama*, man was supposed to marry and raise a family. As a householder, he was to take responsibility of maintaining his family. This period lasted from the age of 25 to 50 years.

The third stage was *Vanaprastha Ashrama*. It lasted from the age of 50 to 75 years. During this period man was expected to retire from worldly life and acquire spiritual and philosophical knowledge.

The last stage lasting from the age of 75 to 100 years was the *Sanyasa Ashrama*. This was the period of renunciation. Man had to leave everything forever and go into meditation in order to attain *moksha* or salvation.

and the present caste system emerged. In the Later Vedic Period, *Brahmins*, *Kshatriyas*, *Vaishyas* and *Shudras* became four distinct castes or *Varnas*.

The *Brahmins* or the priests performed religious rituals. The *Kshatriyas* participated in wars. The *Vaishyas* engaged in business and looked after agriculture as well as industry. The *Shudras* served the upper classes.

6)



STEPPING STONE  
SCHOOL (HIGH)

CLASS :9

**Subject: History**

**Topic: Jainism and Buddhism**

**Dated: 30 April,2020**

***Answers to Worksheet No.:2***

1)

(Eightfold Path: The way to nirvana, in Buddhism, or the path that leads to removal of suffering, is known as the Eightfold Path (*Ashtangika Marg*) or the middle path.

It is a path midway between luxurious living and hard penance. It includes:

- (i) **Right action:** To remain away from theft, luxuries and violence.
- (ii) **Right thought:** To remain away from empty rituals and worldly evils.
- (iii) **Right belief:** To give up desire.
- (iv) **Right living:** Not to have dishonest dealings with others.
- (v) **Right speech:** Speak the truth and do not think ill of others.
- (vi) **Right effort:** Work for deliverance from sins and for the welfare of others.

Gautama Buddha

- (vii) **Right recollection:** Think about pious things.
- (viii) **Right meditation:** Concentrate on only what is right.

**Four Noble Truths:** The essence of Buddhism lies in Four Noble Truths. They are:

- (i) The world is full of suffering.
- (ii) The suffering has a cause.
- (iii) Desire is the cause of suffering.
- (iv) If desire is stopped, suffering can also be stopped.

2)

3) Tripitikas/ Tripitakas and Jatakas

4)

#### SIMILARITIES BETWEEN JAINISM AND BUDDHISM

(a) The founders of both religions, Mahavira and Gautam Buddha had similar backgrounds. Both of them belonged to the Kshatriya clan and followed the same path.

(b) Both sought the attainment of salvation (*moksha*) from the cycle of birth and death.

(c) Both did not accept the Vedas.

(d) Non-violence was their creed.

(e) Unlike Brahmins of Hinduism, monks and nuns of Buddhism and Jainism had to renounce family life and the world. They had to lead a life of chastity.

5) Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka, Abhidhamma Pitaka

6)



Bhutanese painting showing Jataka Tales

common man. This was an important cause that gave rise to faiths that were simple and inexpensive.

(ii) **Corruption in Religion:** Corruption crept into religious practices. In order to extract money, the priests encouraged ordinary people to perform yajnas and conduct household rites beyond their means. *Kshatriya* rulers protested against the dominance of such practices. The common man could not reconcile to this attitude of the priests. Both Jainism and Buddhism were founded by two *Kshatriya* princes.

(iii) **Rigid Caste System:** The division of society into *Brahmans*, *Kshatriyas*, *Vaishyas* and *Shudras* had become rigid. It did not allow any social mobility. A person of one caste could not become a member of the other caste. There were restrictions on the basis of caste on food, drinks and marriage. Interchange of caste was impossible.

(iv) **Difficult Language:** Sanskrit was considered a sacred language. Most of the Vedic literature was composed in Sanskrit. The priestly class gave discourses and chanted mantras in this language, which the common people found difficult to understand. Therefore, many people began to look for an alternative religion that they could understand better.

(v) **Political situation:** In the sixth century BC, Magadha was ruled by Bimbisara and later by Ajatashatru. Both these rulers were liberal and tolerant. They too were free from Brahmanic influence and condemned certain social evils in their kingdoms. When the opportunity came, they patronised both Jainism and Buddhism.

(vi) **Agricultural Economy:** Killing of animals to perform sacrifices was against the interests of farmers in the Gangetic valley. The use of iron had made the animal-drawn ploughing popular. Such farmers needed a religion that would give protection to animals. Both Jainism and Buddhism preached non-violence and were against animal sacrifices.

### CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF JAINISM AND BUDDHISM

The following factors favoured the rise and growth of Jainism and Buddhism:

(i) **Reaction against Ritualism:** Religious ceremonies by then had become very expensive, beyond the means of ordinary people. Some priests hardly realised the sufferings of the

7)

Buddhism	Jainism
1. It was completely a new religion in 6th century BC.	1. It had been founded long before Mahavira. He was the last of its <i>Tirthankaras</i> .
2. It followed a middle path.	2. It believed in hard penance.
3. It is silent about existence of God.	3. It denies existence of God.
4. It spread far and wide and led to cultural evolution in India.	4. It did not spread beyond the Indian shores.



STEPPING STONE  
SCHOOL (HIGH)

CLASS :9

**Subject:History**

**Topic: Our Constitution**

**Dated: 19 May,2020**

***Answers to Worksheet No.:3***

1) Constitution is a comprehensive document containing the set of rules according to which the government of a country runs.

2)The legislative,the executive,the judiciary.

3)On December 11,1946 Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected President of the constituent assembly.

4)Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

5)The date January 26,1950 for commencement of the Constitution was specially selected because of its historical importance.It was on this date, January 26,in 1929 that the Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress had for the first time given the call of Purna Swaraj or Complete Independence.Since then the day was celebrated as Independence Day upto 1947.

6)Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

