



Lucknow IAS Academy



सत्यमेव जयते



Mains Answer Writing Practice

Day 3

Art and Culture

Specific Instructions for Mains answer writing:**Introduction –**

Keep it short not more than 2, 3 lines. This is just an example. You can use your own introduction

Body –

First understand the demand of the question. Directly hit the demand of the questions, use headings and subheadings as necessary.

Keyword –

Here we have to make a comment about the statement. Comment means commentary - So break the whole statement into parts and give the details of it.

Write in points below each heading. Don't forget to support your points with example.

Way of Highlighting Keywords - Use underline, Encircling the whole word in rectangular box and writing the word in CAPITAL LETTER. Don't use one method more than two times on one page.

Heading one - details/Examples

Heading two- Give details Examples **Heading three** -Give details\ Examples

Conclusion:

Connect it with what happened after that or present.

Q1: Mesolithic Rock cut architecture of India not only reflect the cultural life of the times but also a fine sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment.

Model Answer:

Introduction:

Pre-historic period remains are a great witness to the evolution of human civilization, through the numerous Rock weapons, tools, ceramics and bones. more than anything else the rock paintings are the greatest wealth the primitive human beings of this period left behind.

Body:

Represent the cultural life of times:

The artist here made their paintings on the walls and ceilings of the rock shelter that help us in understanding their cultural life.

1. Hunting was main occupation and way of survival so hunting scenes dominates in paintings of caves. Eg: people hunting in groups, armed with Spears pointed sticks arrows and Bows.
2. Sometimes men have been drawn with elaborate head dress and painted with mask also that show some sort of Priestly class existed.
3. The life of of mesolithic period depended upon animals, sometimes they fear animals but at times they show feeling of tenderness and love for them. Eg: paintings of bhimbetka showing animals chasing men and in some they are being chased and hunted by men.
4. Man from mesolithic period enjoy the community life. community dances were one such occasion. Eg: hand linked dancing human figure.
5. These are rich source of tracing day to day life. Eg: paintings of people gathering fruit or honey from trees and of women grinding and preparing food.
6. Some of the pictures of men women and children seem to depict a sort of family life.

7. Some paintings were made in places where people do not seem to be living, perhaps these places had some religious significance.

Depict fine sense comparable to modern painting:

- These pictures have good pictorial quality
- There is a charm of simple rendering of scenes of the environment in which the artist lived.
- The men shown in the pictures appear adventurous and prejoicing their life
- The paintings of individual animals show The majesty of skill of the primitive artist in drawing these forms. Both proportion and tonal effect has been realistically maintained in them. The animals are shown more useful and majestic than perhaps the actually were.
- The primitive artist possessed an intrinsic passion for a story telling.
- These pictures depicted in a dramatic way both men and animals engaged in the struggle for survival.

Conclusion:

This practice is common among primitive people of today also. They engrave or paint on rocks as part of rituals they perform at birth, at death, at coming of age and at the time of marriage.

Q2: Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India.

Model Answer:

Introduction:

Accounts of foreign travellers helps us in reconstructing the history of India.

Body:

Chinese Accounts:

Many Chinese monks had taken difficult journeys to India to collect authentic manuscripts of Buddhist texts, to meet Indian monks, and to visit Buddhist study center and pilgrimage sites.

1. They help in understanding Socio-economic conditions in India. Eg: Fa-hien mentions about the Chandalas (untouchables) . This shows that untouchability was prevalent in the society. Eg: According to Fa-Hien, people in India were not required to register their homes, or appear before a magistrate. The farmers working on the royal land had to pay a certain part of their produce to the king.
2. They are a source to understand Existing political conditions.'Si-Yu-Ki' throws light on almost all aspects of India during the 7th century. from the doctrines and practices of Buddhist monks, stupas, monasteries and places of pilgrimage, India's landscape, climate, crops, cities, caste system to the various customs of the people. **Eg:** Hsuan Tsang's account shows that during Harsha's reign , Prayag and Kannauj in the doab emerged important as important centre.He also Confirmed Harsha's defeat against Pulakeshin.
3. They give an account of Prevalent Philosophy, religion, sects and rituals. Eg: Hsuan Tsang and I-tsing provided account of Nalanda which was a famous Buddhist center and they also write about royal patronage.
4. They help in identifying the location of various Buddhist monasteries in the

subcontinent as well as in locating diplomatic and trade relations along the Silk Route.

5. They are rich source to trace the development of Buddhism in India as well as eventual demise of Buddhism from the land of its origin.

Arab Accounts:

- Al Beruni's 'Taqeeq-e-Hind' covers a large number of subjects: philosophy, beliefs, customs, religions, rituals etc.
- These accounts show in light the socio-economic conditions of women at that time. Eg: Abu Zaid noted that most Indian princes while holding court, allowed their women to be seen unveiled – highlighting that there was no system of purdah and women were given some sort of political say.
- Arab travellers also provide information about the socio-economic condition through their description of trade contacts and the wealth which was exclusively derived from the trade with India. Eg: - Rihala, written by Ibn-Batuta throw light on social and cultural life in the subcontinent in the fourteenth century.
- Give detailed firsthand information in their accounts about the economic, social and other activities of the people. Eg: According to Ibn-Batuta, Indian cities are full of exciting opportunities for those who had the necessary drive, resources and skills. They were densely populated and prosperous.
- Abdur Razak's accounts include trade relations, the richness of Vijayanagara and city of Hampi.

Conclusion:

There are issues associated with the reliability of the accounts provided by these travellers, historians need to exercise caution in reconstruction of Indian history with the help of these accounts

Q3: The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss.

Model Answer:

Introduction:

Bhakti Movement was a reformative movement in Hinduism that focused on intense devotion or love for God. The movement focused to reform Indian society which was shadowed by Brahmanical dominance.

Body:

Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu , also known as Gourang Mahaprabhu' belonged to 16th century, Eastern India. He was Vaishnavit Saint and follower of Lord Krishna.

Contribution of Chaitnya Mahaprabhu:

- Founded **Gaudiya Vaishnavism** in Bengal in 16th century.
- He preached devotion to Krishna expressed through chants and dance as the only method of salvation '**Hare Krishna movement**'.
- -He simplified the worship by '**Hare Kirtan**' and leaving behind complex rituals. He emphasised on love and care as a way to reach Krishna
- **Chaitanyas'** exposition of Raslila is one of the most profound contributions to Indian philosophy.
- Despite being a brahmin he condemned caste system, domination of the priestly class.
- His followers and disciples included lower caste Hindus, Shudras, Untouchables and even Muslim converts.
- He propagated '**Nam simran**' through '**Sankirtana Mandali**'.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu simplified the Bhakti or worship and his stand for truth and non-violence attracted multitude of followers.

Conclusion:

Chaitanyadeva's teachings are now propagated through ISKCON and appeals a world-wide population.'Hari Krishna' combined with dance and chant, brought people from different caste, creed, religion and sex together. Chaitnya Mahaprabhu made it a mass movement.

Q4: What do you understand by Advaita school of philosophy? How did Shankracharya revived it?

Model Answer:

Introduction:

Advait holds that soul and Brahma are one. The atma or the consciousness of self is similar to the Brahma. Brahma is the reality of life and everything else is unreal or Maya. If a person attains the knowledge of the self he would automatically understand Brahma and would achieve salvation. This makes Brahma and atma indestructible and eternal.

Body:

The vedantic philosophy of Advait got revived in 9th A.D under Shankaracharya. Shankaracharya considered Brahma to be without any attributes. He is considered responsible for reviving Hinduism in India to a great extent when Buddhism was gaining popularity. He established four Mathas in the four corners of India at Shringeri, Puri, Dwaraka and Badrinath – for propagation of Sanathana Dharma. These Mathas served as focal points of Sanatan Dharma in their area, situated at four corners of India to manage whole India. Thus Hinduism was able to balance the growing popularity of Buddhist Sanghas.

Around the time of Shankaracharya, southern India had started a Bhakti movement. Hinduism had more emphasis on the ritualistic and yogistic elements, whereas Bhakti movement centered on prayer and devotion. Shankara saw that the masses could not be kept interested in the religion without the power of the prayer. The different yogas and upanishads were way too complex for the common man.

He also sought to unify the different groups of Hindus fighting over the gods of Vishnu, Shiva etc. For the benefit of theists Shankara instituted the Panchayatana puja or worship of the five aspects of the deity – Shiva, Vishnu, Devi, Aditya and Ganesha. He also composed hymns on them and either

founded or renovated temples dedicated to them. He united various religious sects by popularizing the collective worship of Shiva, Vishnu, Surya, Ganesha, Kumara and Shakti;

Shankara saw that Buddha's concepts had its merits and it was too bad that people had to choose either that or traditional Hindu schools of thought. Shankara sought to unite the ideas of both. He took so many Buddhist ideals that other Hindu scholars called him - **prachanna buddha** (the Buddhist in disguise).

Conclusion:

He wrote commentaries on the Brahma Sutras, Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita, thus popularising these texts. He even used debates to make his belief accepted by other scholars of that time. Shankaracharya revive the interest of common people in Hinduism.



Q5: The price of greatness is responsibility. According to you, what does responsibility imply in everyday civil life?

Model Answer:

Introduction:

Responsibility refers to being in-charge of certain duties which are expected to be performed by virtue of being in a certain post/position.

e.g. – A judge is responsible for delivering a judgment.

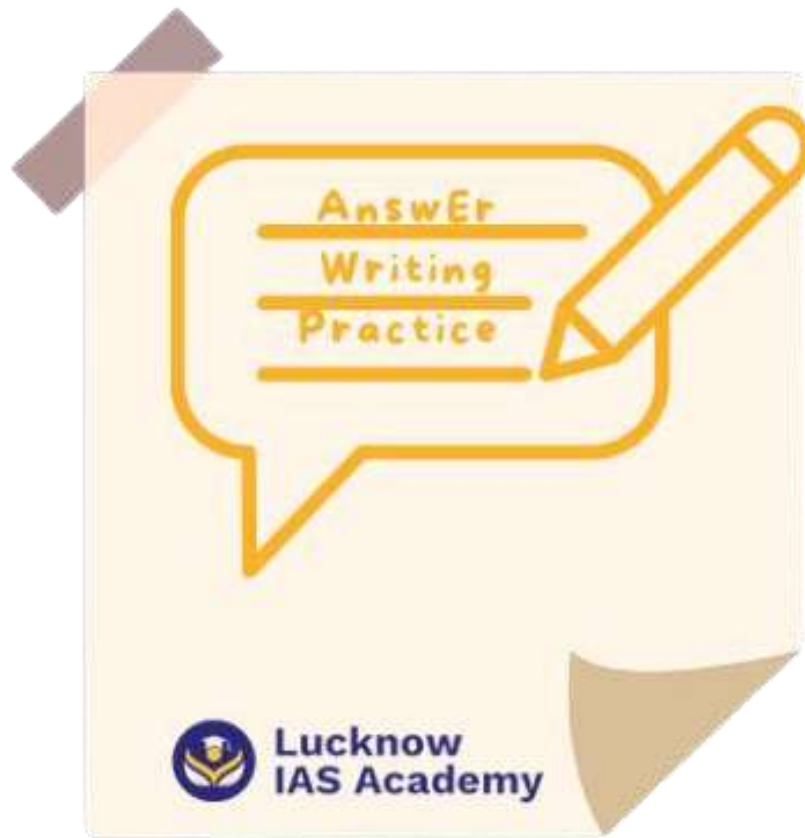
Body:

Responsibility in every day civic life:

- **Responsibility to perform social duty:** Respect my family and elders of the society including women. Promote social equality and eradicate bad practices such as dowry. Take steps towards securing welfare of the individuals of the society. Try to keep bad elements away.
- **Personal Responsibility:** To take care of elders in family, to provide for good education of younger generation etc.
- **Professional Responsibility:** To work towards upliftment of my organization. I would work dedicatedly for making my organization's prosperity.
- **Civic Responsibility:** Following law and order is responsibility of every citizen. Eg: following traffic rules, cleanliness rules, paying taxes properly including income tax, GST etc.
- **Political Responsibility:** A country can prosper if proper political representatives are elected. In this regard, I will do voting and select non-criminal candidates.

Conclusion:

These small actions have a wide-ranging impact on society and environment. If people fulfill their obligations responsibly, they win the appreciation of public and always remembered as good and great citizen.



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