

Mains PYQs - GS-1 (2025)

1) Discuss the salient features of the Harappan architecture. (150 words, 10 marks) (2025)

Directions: Introduction ----- Salient Features ----- Conclusion

Introduction

Mention about the Harappan Civilization.

Main Body

Salient features of the Harappan architecture

- Grid system - Streets are intersected at right angles.
- Town planning - Division of cities (upper & lower town), fortification.
- Private residence - Multi-storied, open courtyards, entrance doors sideways for privacy.
- Drainage system - Covered drains made of baked bricks, connected with street drainage.
- Hydraulic Engineering - Rock-cut reservoirs & check dams
- Building Materials - burnt/baked bricks
- Public buildings - Great Bath, Granaries, etc
- Specialized architectures - Dockyard, burial site.

Conclusion

Mention - Like Harappan architecture was a precursor, link with today's world.

2) Examine the main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism. (150 words, 10 marks) (2025)

Directions: Intro-----Main aspects ----- Limitations---Conclusion

Introduction

Mention about Akbar's religious policy.

Main Body

Main aspects of Akbar's religious syncretism

- Sul-i-kul (Universal Peace)
- Din-i-illahi (Divine Faith)
- Ibadat Khana
- Abolition of discriminatory taxes like Jizya
- Adoption of diverse customs - ban on animal slaughter (Jainism), fire worship (Zoroastrianism), celebrated Nauroz, etc.
- Architectural synthesis - Blended of Hindu and Jain themes into Islamic structures.
- Matrimonial alliance - Eg. Marriage of a Rajput princess
- Translation department - for translating various texts into Persian.

Limitations

- Faced resistance from orthodox groups
- Very few followers for Dil-i-illahi
- Elite-centric measures, not integrated with common masses.
- Reforms are personal
- Not continued after Akbar.

Conclusion

Mention Akbar's religious syncretism as a progressive policy.

3) 'The sculptors filled the chandella artform with resilient vigour and breath of life'. Elucidate. (150 words, 10 marks) (2025)

Directions: Intro-----features of Chandella art form ---- Conclusion

Introduction

Briefly mention the Chandellas & their art forms.

Main Body

Features of Chandella art forms fused with resilient vigour and breath of life

FEATURES OF CHANDELLA ARTFORMS

← FUSED WITH RESILIENT VIGOR AND BREATH OF LIFE →



DYNAMIC POSTURES

– TRIBANGA, DVIBANGA

Figures carved in fluid, rhythmic poses displaying movement, grace and natural vitality.



DEPICTION OF VARIOUS FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

– Joy, anxiety, etc.

Sculptors captured a wide range of emotions, adding depth and human realism.



DEPICTION OF ANIMALS

– Elephants, lion, tiger, etc.

Rich variety of animals carved with strength and realism, symbolizing power and life.



SECULAR & EROTIC THEMED SCULPTURES

– Eg, Mithunas of Kandariya Mahadev Temple, daily life themes.

Celebration of human love, relationships and everyday life with openness and artistry.



ORNAMENTATION DETAILS

– Costumes, jewelry, hairstyle, etc.

Exquisite detailing of attire, jewelry, crown, and hairstyles reflects aesthetic sensibility and craftsmanship.



INTEGRATION OF NATURE

– Like birds, flowers, mountains, rivers, etc.

Nature is beautifully woven into the sculptures, showing harmony between man and environment.



INTEGRATED WITH EXISTING STRUCTURES

Sculptures are organically integrated with temple architecture, enhancing the overall grandeur and unity.



Chandella artforms are a timeless blend of spirituality, sensuality, nature and daily life, crafted with resilient vigor and a breath of life.



Conclusion

Mention Chandella art forms by linking to Indian cultural philosophy.



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