

CLASS 6 SOCIAL SCIENCE

Chapter 7 - India's Cultural Roots

Competency-Based Questions & Answers

Exam-focused | Case Study • Application • Reasoning • Source Analysis • HOTS

1. Case-Based Question - Cultural Diversity

A student visits different parts of India and notices different languages, food habits, festivals, art forms and traditions. However, some ideas and practices are shared across different regions.

Answer: a) It shows that Indian culture is diverse, with different regional traditions, languages, customs and art forms. b) Communities can have different local practices while sharing ideas, values, traditions and cultural connections. This creates diversity along with cultural continuity and interaction.

2. Think and Reason

Why is it difficult to identify a single "Indian culture"?

Answer: India has a very long history and contains many regions, languages, communities, traditions and belief systems. Indian culture is therefore better understood as a rich and diverse collection of traditions that have interacted and developed over time.

3. Competency-Based Question - Cultural Exchange

Two communities living in different regions have different languages and customs. Archaeologists discover that both used similar objects and artistic designs. What could this evidence suggest?

Answer: It could suggest that the communities had some form of interaction or cultural exchange. Similarities may have spread through travel, trade, migration or contact between communities.

4. Case Study - Oral Traditions

An elder in a village tells children stories that have been passed down through several generations. What type of cultural source is this? Why is it important? What precaution should a historian take?

Answer: It is an oral tradition. Such traditions preserve stories, knowledge, customs, beliefs and memories. Historians should compare them with other evidence because stories can change as they are passed from one generation to another.

5. Application-Based Question

A historical community has no surviving written records, but its songs, stories, festivals and traditional practices continue to exist. How could historians study its cultural past?

Answer: Historians could study oral traditions, material remains, art, architecture, archaeological evidence and other available sources. They should compare different sources to develop a reliable understanding of the past.

6. Competency-Based MCQ

Which of the following is the best example of an oral tradition?

- A. An ancient coin
- B. A stone inscription
- C. A story passed from grandparents to grandchildren
- D. An archaeological tool

Answer: C. A story passed from grandparents to grandchildren.

7. Source-Based Question

A historian finds an ancient inscription mentioning a cultural or religious practice. Why should the historian avoid assuming that the inscription represents the beliefs of every person living at that time?

Answer: An inscription may have been created by or for a particular person, institution or community. It represents evidence from a specific context and may not represent the beliefs of the entire population.

8. Higher-Order Thinking

A student says, "If two communities have similar traditions, one community must have copied the other." Is this conclusion necessarily correct?

Answer: No. Similar traditions may result from interaction, shared origins, independent development or cultural exchange. More evidence is needed before determining how the similarity developed.

9. Case-Based Question - Diversity

A family speaks one language at home, celebrates regional festivals and also participates in festivals celebrated by people from other communities. What does this demonstrate?

Answer: It demonstrates that cultural identity can contain multiple influences. People may preserve regional traditions while also participating in wider cultural practices.

10. Competency-Based Question - Art and Architecture

Archaeologists discover sculptures, paintings and buildings with distinctive designs at an ancient site. What can these remains tell us?

Answer: They can provide clues about artistic traditions, technology, cultural practices, social life and interactions with other groups.

11. Assertion and Reason

Assertion: Cultural traditions can change over time.

Reason: Communities interact with other communities through travel, trade, migration and other forms of contact.

Answer: Both the Assertion and Reason are correct, and the Reason correctly explains the Assertion.

12. Case-Based Question - Language

A word used in one Indian language is found to have similarities with a word in another Indian language. What might this indicate?

Answer: It may indicate historical contact, borrowing or shared linguistic roots. However, linguists would need additional evidence before determining the exact relationship.

13. Critical Thinking Question

Why is language an important part of cultural heritage?

Answer: Language carries stories, knowledge, traditions, songs, expressions and memories from one generation to another. It therefore plays an important role in preserving cultural heritage.

14. Competency-Based MCQ

Which combination provides the strongest evidence for understanding an ancient community's culture?

- A. Only one object
- B. Only one story
- C. Several different sources studied together
- D. Only a modern description

Answer: C. Several different sources studied together.

15. Case-Based Question - Cultural Continuity

A traditional craft is still practised in a region, although the tools and materials used today are different from those used in the past. What does this tell us about culture?

Answer: It shows cultural continuity as well as change. A tradition can survive while adapting to new technologies, materials, needs and circumstances.

16. Application-Based Question

Why should students respect cultural traditions that are different from their own?

Answer: Different traditions reflect the experiences and histories of different communities. Learning about them helps us understand India's cultural diversity and promotes respect and appreciation for different ways of life.

17. Higher-Order Thinking

Suppose a historical text describes a particular cultural practice. Can we conclude that the practice was followed by everyone in the region?

Answer: No. A single text provides evidence about a particular source and context. Historians need to compare it with other texts, archaeological evidence and regional traditions before making broader conclusions.

18. Source Analysis

A historian studies pottery, sculptures, inscriptions, oral traditions and literary texts from the same region. Why is comparing these sources useful?

Answer: Each source reveals different aspects of the past. Comparing them allows historians to cross-check information, identify similarities and differences, and build a more reliable interpretation.

19. Comprehensive Competency Question

Imagine you are studying the cultural roots of a region. You find ancient buildings, local stories, traditional songs, sculptures, inscriptions and present-day festivals. How would you use these sources to understand the region's cultural history?

Answer: I would study each source separately and then compare them. Buildings and sculptures can provide evidence about art and architecture; inscriptions and literary sources can provide information about ideas and practices; oral traditions and songs can preserve memories and cultural knowledge; and present-day festivals can show elements of cultural continuity. Together, these sources can help explain how the culture developed, changed and continued over time.

Quick Competency Revision

Cultural Roots → Language + Stories + Traditions + Art + Architecture → Interaction between Communities → Cultural Exchange → Continuity + Change → India's Rich Cultural Diversity

Key exam idea: Culture is not static. It can preserve older traditions while also changing through interaction and adaptation.

Important Competency Words

- Culture
- Diversity
- Tradition
- Heritage
- Oral Tradition
- Cultural Exchange
- Continuity
- Change
- Language
- Archaeological Evidence
- Literary Sources
- Context
- Interpretation

How to Answer Competency Questions

- Identify the evidence given in the question.
- State what the evidence directly suggests.
- Explain the reasoning rather than giving only a one-word answer.
- Avoid making conclusions that go beyond the evidence.
- Use more than one source when the question asks you to interpret the past.