

CBSE Class – VII Social Science
NCERT Solutions
History Chapter 05
Rulers and Buildings

Q1: How is the “trabeate” principle of architecture different from the “arcuate”?

Solution:

- (i) In trabeate style of architecture, roofs, doors and windows were made by placing a horizontal beam across two vertical columns while in arcuate style of architecture, the weight of the superstructure above the doors and windows was sometimes carried by arches.
- (ii) Trabeate style of architecture was between the seventh and tenth centuries while arcuate style of architecture was prominent from the twelfth century.

Q2: What is a shikhara?

Solution:

Shikhara is the highest roof of the Hindus temples. For example, the Rajarajeshvara temple at Thanjavur had the tallest shikhara amongst the temples of its time.

Q3: What is pietra-dura?

Solution:

Pietra-dura is an architectural style in which coloured, hard stones were placed in depressions carved into marble or sandstone creating beautiful, ornate patterns. For example, behind the Emperor Shah Jahan’s throne, were a series of pietra dura inlays that depicted the legendary Greek god Orpheus playing the lute.

Q4: What are the elements of a Mughal chahar bagh garden?

Solution:

The elements of a Mughal chahar bagh garden are rectangular walled enclosures, divided into four quarters by artificial channels. The chahar bagh garden also had a variation that historians describe as the “riverfront garden” in which the dwelling was not located in the middle of the chahar bagh but at its edge, near the bank of the river.

Q5: How did a temple communicate the importance of a king?

Solution:

- (i) A Temple communicated the importance of a king as they were meant to demonstrate the power, wealth and devotion of the patron.
- (ii) It helped the king to appear like a God as the king took the God’s name because it was auspicious. For example, in the Rajarajeshvara temple, there is an inscription that mentions that it was built by King Rajarajadeva for the worship of his God, Rajarajeshvaram. The king's name is similar to the God's name. Through the rituals of worship in the temple one God (Rajarajadeva) honoured another (Rajarajeshvaram).

- (iii) It also gives a chance to the king to proclaim close relationships with God and come closer to people.
- (iv) The temple was a miniature model of the world ruled by the king and his allies.
- (v) They worshipped their deities together in the royal temples; it seemed as if they brought the just rule of the Gods on earth.

Q6: An inscription in Shah Jahan's diwan-i khas in Delhi stated: "If there is Paradise on Earth, it is here, it is here, it is here." How was this image created?

Solution:

- (i) During Shah Jahan's reign, the different elements of Mughal architecture were fused together in a grand harmonious synthesis. The ceremonial halls of public and private audience (diwan-i khas or am) were carefully planned. These courts were also described as chihil sutun or forty-pillared halls, placed within a large courtyard.
- (ii) Shah Jahan's audience halls were specially constructed to resemble a mosque.
- (iii) The pedestal on which his throne was placed was frequently described as the qibla which means the direction in which Muslims pray as everybody faced that direction when court was in session.
- (iv) The idea of the king as a representative of God on earth was suggested by these architectural features.

Therefore, by the means of architecture style, this image was created.

Q7: How did the Mughal court suggest that everyone – the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak – received justice equally from the emperor?

Solution:

The Mughal court suggested that everyone – the rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak – received justice equally from the emperor:

- (i) The architectural features highlighted the idea of the king as a representative of God on earth. So, people could identify with the king as a just God.
- (ii) The connection between royal justice and the imperial court was emphasised on by Shah Jahan in his newly constructed court in the Red Fort at Delhi.
- (iii) There were a series of pietra dura inlays behind the emperor's throne which depicted that legendary Greek God Orpheus playing the lute. It was believed that Orpheus's music could calm ferocious beasts until they resided together peaceably
- (iv) The construction of the audience halls aimed to communicate that the king's justice would treat the high and the low as equals creating a world where all could live together in harmony.

Q8: What role did the Yamuna play in the layout of the new Mughal city at Shahjahanabad?

Solution:

The role of the Yamuna in the layout of the new Mughal city at Shahjahanabad was:

- (i) The imperial palace commanded the front of river Yamuna in the new city of Shahjahanabad in Delhi.
- (ii) Only specially favoured nobles, like Shah Jahan's eldest son Dara Shukoh were given access to the river.
- (iii) All others had to construct their homes in the city away from the River Yamuna.
- (iv) The access to the river Yamuna for the nobles was controlled by developing architectural form in which the white marble mausoleum was placed on a terrace by the edge of the river and the garden was to its south.