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PAINTING

(Theory)

N-332

Chapter Wise Reference Book
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Based on

N.I.O.S. Class – XII
National Institute of Open Schooling

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PAINTING THEORY

Based on: **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING – XII**

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**Sample Preview
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Solved
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Papers**

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Solved Sample Paper - 1

Based on NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling)

PAINTING THEORY

N-332

Time: 1½ Hours]

[Maximum Marks : 40

General Instructions: (i) This question paper consists of 26 questions in all. (ii) All questions are compulsory. (iii) Marks are given against each question. (iv) Section–A consists of Q.No. 1 to 8 – Multiple Choice type questions (MCQs) carrying 1 mark each. Select and write the most appropriate option out of the four options given in each of these questions. An internal choice has been provided in some of these questions. You must attempt only one of the given choices in such questions. (v) Section–B consists of Objective type questions - Q.No. 9 to 20 –(a) Read the passage and attempt Q. No. 9 to 14 carrying 01 mark each. (b) Read the passage and attempt Q. No. 15 to 20 carrying 01 mark each. An internal choice has been provided in some of these questions. (vi) Section–C consists of Subjective type questions. Q.No. 21 to 26. (a) Q.No. 21 to 23 – Very Short questions carrying 02 marks each to be answered in the range of 30 – 40 words. An internal choice has been provided in some of these questions. (b) Q.No. 24 – Short Answer type questions carrying 04 marks each to be answered in the range of 70 – 80 words. An internal choice has been provided in some of these questions. (c) Q.No. 25 and 26 – Long Answer type questions carrying 05 marks each to be answered in the range of 90 – 100 words. An internal choice has been provided in some of these questions.

SECTION – A

Q. 1. Where are the Mirzapur Rock Paintings located?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Kaimur hills
(c) Mirzapur town (d) Bhimbetka

Ans. (b) Kaimur hills.

Or

The Ajanta caves are famous for their:

- (a) Elaborate stonework
(b) Metal sculptures
(c) Buddhist stupas
(d) Cave paintings

Ans. (d) Cave paintings.

Q. 2. Which artwork portrays a horse-riding man pursuing a tiger?

- (a) Rows of Cows
(b) Primitive Hunters
(c) Bhimbetka Paintings
(d) Likhunia Art

Ans. (b) Primitive Hunters.

Q. 3. What type of design adorns the Harappan Peacock Motif Storage Jar crafted around 2500 BCE?

- (a) Floral patterns
(b) Mythical creatures
(c) Geometric fish design
(d) Peacock motif amid geometric elements

Ans. (d) Peacock motif amid geometric elements.

Or

Which dynasty contributed to the earliest Pala miniature paintings?

- (a) Gupta (b) Chalukya
(c) Rajput (d) Pala

Ans. (d) Pala.

Q. 4. What feature of the pottery reflects the wheel-turning craftsmanship with fine clay?

- (a) Storage Jars with bull and antelopes
(b) Mehragarh's service pot
(c) Harappan-style clay pot with a serpent motif
(d) Tall burial jar with black asymmetrical geometric motifs

Ans. (b) Mehragarh's service pot.

Q. 5. The artists of Ajanta showcased their mastery over intricate human, animal, and botanical forms while liberating their imagination. What qualities encapsulate their essence of art?

- (a) Proportions and composition
(b) Realism and idealism
(c) Fauvism and Cubism
(d) Expressionism and Surrealism

Ans. (a) Proportions and composition.

Or

Who introduced the tradition of miniature painting to India during the Mughal era?

- (a) Akbar (b) Jahangir
(c) Babur (d) Humayun

Ans. (d) Humayun.

Q. 6. What do the Bagh caves primarily showcase?

- (a) Ajanta style paintings with court dancers
(b) Sculptures of gods and goddesses
(c) Secular life and observation of festivals

(d) Murals depicting wars and conquests

Ans. (c) Secular life and observation of festivals.

Q. 7. Which material was most commonly used for sculptures during the Indus Valley Civilization?

- (a) Gold (b) Terracotta
(c) Marble (d) Stone

Ans. (b) Terracotta.

Q. 8. The steatite bust portraying the priest king hails from which ancient civilization?

- (a) Mauryan Civilization
(b) Indus Valley Civilization
(c) Gupta Empire
(d) Vedic Period

Ans. (b) Indus Valley Civilization.

Or

Which Persian painters were part of Humayun's court when he returned from his exile in Persia?

- (a) Mir Sayyid Ali and Abd-al-Samad
(b) Ustad Mansur and Abul Hasan
(c) Akbar and Jahangir
(d) Babur and Shah Jahan

Ans. (a) Mir Sayyid Ali and Abd-al-Samad.

SECTION - B

Read the passages and answer the questions below.

Passage 1: In prehistoric times man was very dependent on nature. Rock paintings from that period found world wide show human figures hunting a beast, at war with each other, carrying clubs and projectiles, and celebrating a victory with dance and animal figures in the movement. At that times, these paintings represent animals as Gods. In India, prehistoric rock paintings came to light when Archibald Carlleyle of the Archaeological Survey of India discovered rock paintings which he thought dated from the Stone Age at Sohagihat in the Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh in 1867 and 1868. These paintings today provide an insight into the life of the people who painted them. In 1881 J. Cockburn found fossilised rhinoceros bones in the valley of the Ken River in the Mirzapur region as well as a painting of a rhinoceros hunted by three men in a shelter near Roap Village. In 1924, Sir John Marshall, Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni, Madho Sarup Vats, Rakhil Das Banerjee, and E.J.H. MacKay led excavations on the banks of the river Ravi and Indus, leading to the discovery of civilizational thousands of years old. The seals, coins, statuettes, and terracottas found at these sites have animal figures painted or carved. The next set of ancient Indian cave paintings available today are the frescos of Jogimara, Bagh,

Badami, Sittanvasal, Armamalai and Ajanta. Dating from the 1st Century BCE to the 7th Century CE, the main theme of these frescos is the life of Buddha and Jataka narratives mainly in Ajanta caves

which are related to Brahmanical-Hinduism at Badami and Jaina themes at Sittanvasal and painted. These are representative works of the finest quality. Portrait faces are renowned world wide for their expressive faces, eyes and hand gestures. The most well known amongst the Indian painted caves, the Ajanta complex has 29 caves, including an unfinished one.

Q. 9. (a) In prehistoric times, humans depicted animals as _____.

Ans. Gods.

Or

(b) Archibald Carlleyle discovered prehistoric rock paintings in Sohagihat, Uttar Pradesh, in _____.

Ans. 1867 and 1868.

Q. 10. (a) J. Cockburn found fossilized _____ bones in the valley of the Ken River in the Mirzapur region.

Ans. Rhinoceros.

Or

(b) Sir John Marshall, Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni, Madho Sarup Vats, Rakhil Das Banerjee, and E.J.H. MacKay led excavations on the banks of the river Ravi and Indus, leading to the discovery of an ancient _____.

Ans. civilization.

Q. 11. The artifacts found at the excavation sites on the banks of the river Ravi and Indus included seals, coins, statuettes, and terracottas with _____ figures painted or carved.

Ans. animal.

Q. 12. (a) The main theme of the frescos in Jogimara, Bagh, Badami, Sittanvasal, Armamalai, and Ajanta caves is the life of _____ and Jataka narratives.

Ans. Buddha.

Or

(b) The frescos in Badami mainly feature _____ themes.

Ans. Brahmanical-Hinduism.

Q. 13. The frescos in Jogimara, Bagh, Badami, Sittanvasal, Armamalai, and Ajanta caves are primarily related to _____.

Ans. religion and mythology.

Q. 14. (a) Ajanta is the most well-known Indian painted cave complex with _____ caves, including an unfinished one.

Ans. 29.

Or

(b) The portrait faces in the Ajanta caves are renowned worldwide for their expressive _____ and hand gestures.

Ans. faces, eyes.

Passage 2: Man, thought to be the most intelligent of beings, first began to draw and paint images to

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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PAINTING THEORY

Prehistoric Painting of India

INTRODUCTION

The ancient rock paintings in India, dating back around 2.5 million years to 10,000 B.C., marked the earliest art of human civilization. Created during the Palaeolithic era, these unique works adorned cave walls. Early humans, surviving by hunting birds and animals, depicted their experiences through simple lines and colours. These depictions, discovered 40,000 years later, revealed hunting scenes, and served as pre-hunt rituals. In 1868, Sohaghat's findings preceded Spain's Altamira caves discovery by 12 years, showcasing India's earliest prehistoric art.

Mirzapur Rock Paintings have been found in caves, including Likhunia and Bhaldaria, located around 20 km from Mirzapur town in the Kaimur hills near the Son river. These ancient artworks painted on walls and ceilings by early humans in over 250 rock shelters exhibit diverse themes, portraying animals like elephants, boars, and tigers, both wild and domestic. Titled 'Primitive Hunters', a prehistoric artwork dating back to around 5000 BC, showcases a horse-riding man with a lance pursuing a tiger. The scene highlights early humans' communal hunting practices, using basic colours to lend volume to the figures.

Nestled in Madhya Pradesh, Panchmarhi hills boast numerous rock shelters adorned with varied paintings. 'Pachmarhi' is thought to stem from 'Panch-Marhi', five caves where Pandavas supposedly stayed. Dated around 5000 BC, 'Rows

of Cows' is a prehistoric masterpiece. It portrays a cowherd guiding cows to pasture, using earthy colours. Geometric yet dynamic, the stylised cows exude motion. Paintings' arrangement, like this one, prioritises clarity and balance over decoration.

Found near Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Bhimbetka houses over 754 rock shelters adorned with stunning paintings. Reflecting the Mesolithic era of hunter-gatherers, these artworks explore the human-animal relationship. Among them, 'Fighters', dated around 5000 BC, portrays human figures alongside animals, armed with primitive weapons. These men engage in capturing or subduing wild creatures, their silhouettes brimming with dynamism. The painting exhibits four men challenging various animals, even taming a horse. This depiction's artistic conventions highlight the evolving complexity, such as the introduction of bows, distinct from earlier periods. Notably, similar paintings endure through Maharashtra's Warli artists.

ACTIVITY

Q. You have learnt the rock paintings. Now, fill the table below:

Name of State	Theme	Type of figure found

Ans.

Name of State	Theme	Type of figure found
Uttar Pradesh	Primitive hunting scene	Different species of animals
Madhya Pradesh	Cowherd driving a herd of cows to the pasture	Rows of cows
Madhya Pradesh	Man and his relationship with animals	Men and animals

INTEXT QUESTIONS 1.1

Q. Fill in the blanks:

- The medium of Primitive Hunters painting are and
- Colours of pigment used in this painting are, and
- The most popular subject of Rock Painting is

Ans. 1. earth and mineral colour, 2. red, black and yellow, 3. hunting.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 1.2

Tick the most appropriate answer:

1. Name the colours of Panchmarhi painting.

- (i) White (ii) Blue
(iii) Black (iv) None of these.

Ans. (i) White.

2. Write the location of Panchmarhi.

- (i) Uttar Pradesh (ii) Madhya Pradesh
(iii) West Bengal (iv) Bihar

Ans. (ii) Madhya Pradesh.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 1.3

Q. 1. Where is Bhimbetka located?

Ans. Bhimbetka is located near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.

Q. 2. Which period do these paintings belong to?

Ans. These paintings belong to Mesolithic period.

Q. 3. Identify at least one animal in this painting.

Ans. Horse is one of the animals seen in this painting.

TERMINAL EXERCISE

Q. 1. Which period does the Prehistoric art in India belong to?

Ans. Prehistoric art in India primarily belongs to the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. The Palaeolithic period, also known as the Old Stone Age, dates back roughly 2.5 million years ago to around 10,000 BC. During this time, early humans created rock paintings and carvings, often depicting scenes of hunting, animals, and daily life, in various locations across India. The Mesolithic period followed the Palaeolithic era and spanned from around 10,000 BC to roughly 2,000 BC. Art from this period continues to show scenes of hunting, gathering, and human-animal relationships, but there might be some differences in artistic styles and subjects compared to the Palaeolithic era.

Q. 2. Name the types of rock art in India.

Ans. There are three kinds of rock art: (i) Rock painting, (ii) Rock engraving, (iii) Rock brushing.

Q. 3. Describe the different types of rock art.

Ans. Description of three kinds of rock art are:

(i) Rock Painting: These are images created by applying pigments like natural earth colours, charcoal, or plant-based dyes onto the rock surfaces. They often depict scenes of daily life, rituals, hunting, animals, and symbolic designs.

(ii) Rock Engraving: Also known as petroglyphs, these are designs or images incised or carved onto rock surfaces. They are created by removing the outer layer of the rock to reveal the design underneath.

(iii) Rock brushing: It is a term often associated with rock art and archaeological sites. However, it seems to be a less commonly

PREHISTORIC PAINTING OF INDIA / 3

used term compared to 'rock paintings', 'rock engravings', and other forms of rock art.

Q. 4. Write a short note on the method and materials of prehistoric rock paintings?

Ans. The rock paintings from prehistoric times, crafted by early humans, offer captivating insights into ancient cultures and their artistic expressions. These artworks were fashioned using a variety of methods and materials available during the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. While techniques and materials varied across regions and time frames, some general characteristics emerge. For instance, the Mirzapur rock paintings employed limited colours, primarily red, black, and yellow pigments, to add dimension to the figures. In Panchmarhi rock art, colours were restrained to Ochre red backgrounds and white figures. Often arranged seemingly haphazardly, these paintings, including Bhimbetka rock art, prioritise clarity and balance over decoration, utilising earth and mineral colours.

Q. 5. What is the theme of the painting of Mirzapur?

Ans. The rock art in Mirzapur depicts various animal species such as elephants, boars, and tigers, encompassing both wild and domestic creatures. Among these paintings, one portrays a man on horseback wielding a lance, pursuing a tiger. These early artists commonly chose primitive hunting scenes as their primary theme, reflecting their real-life practices. The painting vividly portrays a group of individuals engaging in collective hunting of formidable animals, employing basic tools to encircle and conquer their prey. Notably, the animals are depicted in greater detail compared to the human figures in the artwork.

Q. 6. Write two lines on Pachmarhi cave paintings.

Ans. Located in Madhya Pradesh, Panchmarhi hills are adorned with numerous rock shelters, displaying an array of paintings. Among these, the artwork 'Rows of Cows' stands out. It depicts a cowherd guiding a group of cows to pasture. The

cows are stylized with geometric precision, yet the composition exudes dynamic motion in both animal and human forms. Colours are restrained to Ochre red backgrounds and white figures. In many paintings, the seemingly unordered arrangement prioritises clarity and balance over decoration, resulting in effective individual forms.

Q. 7. Name the animals shown in the paintings of Bhimbetka.

Ans. Animals like bulls, bisons, elephants and wild boars are shown in the paintings of Bhimbetka. These awe-inspiring depictions offer a window into the past, revealing the deep connection and reverence early human societies held for the fauna that surrounded them. The vivid and skillfully rendered images of these animals not only demonstrate the artistic prowess of the creators but also provide invaluable insights into the natural world as it existed in prehistoric times. The inclusion of these significant creatures within the Bhimbetka paintings stands as a testament to the importance of wildlife in the lives, beliefs, and perhaps rituals of the people who once inhabited these lands, creating a timeless link between art, nature, and humanity.

Q. 8. Why did primitive men paint many species of animals?

Ans. Primitive men painted many species of animals for a variety of reasons that were deeply connected to their daily lives, beliefs, and survival strategies. Many primitive societies believed in the power of images to influence the outcomes of their endeavours, including hunting. Painting animals might have been a way to invoke magical or spiritual assistance for successful hunts. By representing animals they hunted, early humans might have believed they could ensure a bountiful hunt. Prehistoric art could have been a means of visual storytelling and communication. By depicting animals, they could communicate information about successful hunts, strategies, and experiences to other members of their group or future generations. Animals often held cultural and spiritual significance in ancient societies. They

might have been associated with deities, spirits, or ancestors. Painting animals could have been a way to pay homage to these beings or to connect with the spiritual world. Animals could have symbolised certain qualities or characteristics that these early societies admired or aspired to possess. Painting animals might have been a way to reinforce group identity and values.

Q. 9. Write one similarity with the tribal art form of India.

Ans. One similarity with the tribal art forms of India is the strong connection to nature and the depiction of animals. Just as primitive rock paintings often featured various species of animals, many tribal art forms in India also prominently incorporate animal motifs. These motifs hold cultural, spiritual, and symbolic significance within tribal communities, reflecting their close relationship with nature and the importance of animals in their lives and belief systems.

Q. 10. The appearance of the bow is very interesting. Explain in your own words.

Ans. The appearance of the bow in prehistoric paintings offers a captivating glimpse into the evolution of human culture and technology. As a significant advancement in weaponry, the inclusion of bows in these ancient artworks speaks volumes about the changing dynamics of early human societies. Bows revolutionised hunting and warfare, providing greater range and accuracy compared to earlier tools. The depiction of bows in prehistoric paintings reflects the growing sophistication of human hunting strategies and the development of new skills. The presence of bows suggests a shift from simply relying on close-quarter encounters with prey to employing tactics that allowed humans to engage animals from a distance.

Moreover, the appearance of bows in these paintings could symbolise more than just a technological innovation. Bows might have held cultural, ritualistic, or spiritual importance within these ancient societies. They could represent prowess in hunting, concepts of power, or even be tied to mythological narratives.

OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Q. 1. Write a note on rock paintings as a prehistoric art form.

Ans. Prehistoric rock paintings in India offer a captivating journey into the distant past, reflecting the artistic sensibilities and cultural expressions of early human civilizations. These paintings, dating back thousands of years, are a testament to the creativity, beliefs, and lifestyles of our ancient ancestors.

These artworks are spread across the subcontinent, from the hills of Madhya Pradesh to the caves of Maharashtra and beyond. They are found in a variety of landscapes, from rocky shelters to cave walls. Indian prehistoric rock paintings encompass a wide range of subjects, including scenes of hunting, animals, rituals, daily life, and geometric patterns. These artworks provide insights into the cultural practices and activities of early humans. Animals are a common motif in Indian rock paintings, reflecting the intimate relationship between early humans and their natural environment. These depictions not only showcase a practical understanding of wildlife, but also suggest a spiritual connection to the animal world.

Different regions of India exhibit distinct styles and themes in their rock art. For instance, Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh showcases Mesolithic art with depictions of animals and hunting scenes, while the rock art in Tamil Nadu predominantly features human figures.

Q. 2. Give a description of prehistoric rock engravings in India.

Ans. Prehistoric rock engravings in India unveil a mesmerising journey into the ancient past, etched onto stone surfaces by early human hands. These engravings serve as enduring testaments to the creative impulses, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs of our distant ancestors.

These engravings depict a diverse range of motifs, such as animals, human figures, geometric patterns, and symbols. Each motif carries its own