



Grade VII

Lesson. 8 Devotional paths to the Divine

History

I Multiple choice questions

1. Religious biographies are called:
a. Autobiography b. Photography c. Hierography d. Hagiography
2. Sufis were _____ mystics:
a. Hindu b. Muslim c. Buddha d. None of these
3. Mirabai became the disciple of :
a. Tulsidas b. Ravidas c. Narsi Mehta d. Surdas
4. Surdas was an ardent devotee of :
a. Vishnu b. Krishna c. Shiva d. Durga
5. Baba Guru Nanak born at :
a. Varanasi b. Talwandi c. Ajmer d. Agra
6. Whose songs become popular in Rajasthan and Gujarat ?
a. Surdas b. Tulsidas c. Guru Nanak d. Mira Bai
7. Vittala is a form of :
a. Shiva b. Vishnu c. Krishna d. Ganesha
8. Script introduced by Guru Nanak:
a. Gurudwara b. Langar c. Gur mukhi d. None of these
9. The Islamic scholar developed a holy law called:
a. Shariat b. Jannat c. Haj d. Qayamat
10. As per the Islamic tradition the day of judgement is known as:
a. Haj b. Mecca c. Jannat d. Qayamat
11. House of rest for travellers kept by a religious order is:
a. Fable b. Sama c. Hospice d. Raqas
12. Tulsidas's composition Ramcharitmanas is written in:
a. Hindi b. Awadhi c. Sanskrit d. None of these





13. The disciples in Sufi system were called:

- a. Shishya b. Nayanars c. Alvars d. Murids

14. Who rewrote the Gita in Marathi?

- a. Saint Janeshwara b. Chaitanya c. Virashaiva d. Basavanna

1. (d)	2. (b)	3. (b)	4. (b)	5. (b)	6. (d)	7. (b)
8. (c)	9. (a)	10. (d)	11. (c)	12. (b)	13. (d)	14. (a)

II Multiple choice questions

1. The popular deities were

- a) Shiva b) Vishnu c) Durga d) all of the above

2. Nayanaras were devotees of

- a) Shiva b) Vishnu c) Mother goddess d) none of these

3. Alvars were devotees of.

- a) Shiva b) Vishnu c) Mother goddess d) none of these

4. Shankara belonged to

- a) Tamil Nadu b) Kerala c) Karnataka d) none of these

5. Tukaram was a poet of

- a) Hindi b) Marathi c) Tamil d) none of these

1. d	2. a	3. b	4. b	5. b
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III Multiple choice questions

1. Narsi Mehta was a

- a) Mahatashtrian saint b) Gujarati saint
c) Rajasthani saint d) Punjabi saint

2. Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas is written in.

- a) Awadhi b) Sanskrit c) Punjabi d) Bhojapuri





3. The term langar refers to.

- a) Common kitchen
- b) Common place of worship
- c) Tuition centre
- d) Health centre

4. Harmandir Sahib is also known as .

- a) Khalsa Panth
- b) Sacred place
- c) Golden Temple
- d) Gurudwara

5. The institution of the khalsa is associated with.

- a) Guru Gobind Singh
- b) Guru Arjan
- c) Guru Nanak
- d) Guru Tegh Bahadur

1. b	2. a	3. a	4. c	5. a
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I Fill in the Blanks

1. Ramanyana was born in the state of _____ in India.
2. Vittala is a form of _____.
3. Religious biographies are called _____.
4. The Ramacharitamana is written in _____ language.
5. Allama Prabhu was the companion of _____.

1. Tamil Nadu	2. Vishnu	3. Hagiographies	4. Awadhi	5. Basavanna
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II Fill in the Blanks

1. Shankar a was an advocat e of _____.
2. Ramanuja was inf luenced by the _____.
3. _____, _____ and _____ were advocat es of Virashivism
4. _____ was an import ant cent re of the Bhakt i tradit ion in Mahar asht ra.
5. Sur das was a devot ee of _____.
6. Mir abai was a devot ee of _____ princess.
7. Kabir was brought up near the city of _____.
8. Nanak was born in _____.

1. Advait a	2. Alvar s	3. Basavanna, Allama Prabhu, Akkamahadevi	4. Pandhar pur
5. Krishna	6. Raj put	7. Benar as	8. Talwandi

III Fill in the Blanks

- i. Sak kabai belonged to the _____ Mahar cast e.
- ii. The saint s of Mahar asht ra reject ed the idea of _____ and pref err ed to live with their families.
- iii. The Islam scholar s developed a holy law called _____.
- iv. The suf i mast ers held their assemblies in their _____ or hospices.
- v. The songs of _____ became popular in the masses in Raj ast han and Guj ar at .

i. 'unt ouchable'	ii. renun ciat ion	iii. Shariat	iv. Khanqahs	v) mir abai
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I Match the following

Column A	Column B
1. Sufis	a. Surasaravali
2. Murids	b. Gur mukhi
3. Shariat	c. Muslim mystics
4. Guru Nanak	d. Holy law of Muslim scholars
5. Surdas	e. Disciples in suf i system

1. (a)	2. (b)	3. (c)	4. (d)	5. (e)
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II Match the following

Column A	Column B
1. The Buddha	a. namghar
2. Shankaradeva	b. worship of Vishnu
3. Nizamuddin Auliya	c. questioned social differences
4. Nayanars	d. suf i saint
5. Alvars	e. worship of Shiva
6. Yogis	f. Hospices
7. Sufis	g. Sufis
8. Genealogy	h. Muslim mystics
9. Khanqah	i. Renunciation

1. c	2. a	3. d	4. e	5. b	6. i	7. h	8. g	9. f
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III Match the following

Column A	Column B
i. Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti	a. Delhi
ii. Khwaja Nizamuddin Auliya	b. Ajmer
iii. Baba Farid	c. Gulbarga
iv. Bandanawaz Gisudaraz	d. Punjab

i. b	ii. a	iii. d	iv. c
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IV Match the following

Column A	Column B
i. Zikr	a. Singing
ii. Raqs	b. Method
iii. Sama	c. A genealogy of Sufi teachers
iv. Tariqa	d. Master
v. Silsila	e. Dancing
vi. Pir	f. Chanting of a name or sacred formula

i. f	ii. e	iii. a	iv. b	v. c	vi. d
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I True or False

1. Tulsidas's composition Ramacharitamans is written in Awadhi.
2. Idea of Bhakti was advocated in the Ramayana.
3. Nayanars were devoted to lord Vishnu.
4. Great Sufi saints of Central Asia were Ghazali, Rumi and Sadi.
5. Alvar's saint's compilation of songs is known as Divya Prabandham

1. True	2. False	3. False	4. True	5. True
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II True or False

1. Kabir rejected most of the religious traditions.
2. Guru Arjan was executed by Jahangir.
3. Shankaradeva was from Assam.
4. Bakhtiar Kaki belonged to Ajmer.
5. Islam rejected monotheism.

1. True	2. True	3. True	4. False	5. False
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III True or False

- i) Both Hindus and Muslims became the followers of Kabir.
- ii) Shankaradeva of Assam emphasised devotion to Shiva.
- iii. Mirabai led a very happy life in the royal family of Mewar
- iv. There were 63 Nayanaras who belonged to the backgrounds of different castes.
- v. Buddha taught people that it was possible to overcome social differences and break the cycle of rebirth through personal effort.

i. True	ii. False	iii. False	iv. True	v. True
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Very Short Answer Questions

1. How did intense devotion come in worship?

Intense devotion came into worship in 8th century and later on due to the legacy of different kinds of Bhakti and Sufi movements.

2. Which castes were considered 'untouchable'?

Pulaiyar and the Panars castes were considered 'untouchable'.

3. Name the set of compilation of Alwar's songs?

Their songs were compiled in the Divya Prabandham.

4. Who was Shankaracharya and where was he born?

Shankaracharya was a philosopher and he was born in Kerala in the eighth century.

5. What did Buddha teach?

Buddha taught that it was possible to overcome social differences and break the cycle of rebirth through personal effort.

6. Name some of the saint-poets of Maharashtra.

Janeshwar, Namdev, Eknath and Tukaram as well as women like Sakkubai.

7. Who was Narsi Mehta? What he said?

Narsi Mehta was a famous Gujarati saint. He said, "They are Vaishnavas who understand the pain of others."

8. What is 'abhang'?

It is a Marathi devotional hymn.

9. Who were 'Sufis'?

Sufis were Muslim mystics.

10. Name the great Sufis of Central Asia.

Great Sufis of Central Asia were Ghazali, Rumi and Sadi.

11. What is the meaning of 'zikra'?

'Zikr' means chanting of a name or sacred formula.

12. What are 'Namghars'?

They are houses of recitation and prayer, a practice that is continued even today.

13. Where did Sufi masters held their assemblies?

The Sufi masters held their assemblies in their khanqahs or hospices.





14. What are known as 'dharmshals'?

Baba Guru Nanak created sacred place which was known as dharmshal. It is now known as Gurudwara.

15. Where did the composition of Surdas compiled?

Compositions of Surdas are compiled in the Sur sagara, Sur asaravali and Sahitya Lahari.

16. Mention a unique feature of the saints.

A unique feature of most of the saints is that their works were composed in regional languages and could be sung.

Short Answer Questions

1. Write a note on the contribution made by Mirabai.

Mirabai was a Rajput princess married into the royal family of Mewar in the sixteenth century.

- (i) She became a disciple of Ravidas, a saint from a caste considered 'untouchable'.
- (ii) She was devoted to Krishna.
- (iii) She composed innumerable bhajans expressing her intense devotion.
- (iv) She composed innumerable bhajans expressing her intense devotion.
- (v) Her songs also openly challenged the norms of the 'upper' castes.
- (vi) She became popular with the masses in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

2. Enlist any three teachings of Islam.

Islam propagated strict monotheism or submission to one God:

- (i) It rejected idol worship.
- (ii) Simplified the rituals of worship into collective prayers.
- (iii) They developed holy law Shariat.

3. How did the Sufi masters perform their activities?

- (i) The Sufi masters held their assemblies in their khanqahs or hospices.
- (ii) They discussed spiritual matters.
- (iii) Devotees of all groups including members of the royalty and nobility, and ordinary people flocked to these khanqahs.





- (iv) They sought the blessings of the saints in solving their worldly problems. They also simply attended the music and dance sessions.

4. How do people know about the teachings of Guru Nanak?

His (Guru Nanak's) teachings were compiled by Guru Angad with certain additions. The writings of Guru Angad and his three successors, were compiled by Guru Arjan. It is known as Guru Granth Sahib.

- (i) We know his teachings as nam-japna, kirt-karna and vand-chhakna which underlines the importance of right belief and worship, honest living and helping others.
- (ii) His idea of equality had social and political implications.

5. How were bonds between Bhakti traditions and temple worship strengthened?

- (i) Between the tenth and twelfth centuries the Chola and Pandya kings built big temples around many of the shrines.
- (ii) These shrines were visited by the saint-poets.
- (iii) They strengthened the links between the Bhakti tradition and temple worship.
- (iv) Temples were dedicated to respective gods showing their devotion to their deity.

6. Write a short note on Kabir.

Kabir lived in about 15th-16th century. Brought up in a Julaha (weaver) family, he lived near the city of Benares. His collection of verses known as sakhis and pads are sung by wandering bhajan singers. Some of these are part of Granth Sahib, Panch Vani and Bijak.

Long Answer Questions

1. Write a brief note on new religious developments in North India.

- (i) During the thirteenth century a new wave of the bhakti movement began in North India. This was an age when Islam, Brahmanical Hinduism, Sufism, various strands of bhakti, and the Nathpanths, Siddhas and Yogis influenced one another. Ordinary people like crafts persons, peasants, traders and labourers spread their ideas.
- (ii) Kabir and Baba Guru Nanak rejected all orthodox religions. Other like Tulsidas and Surdas accepted existing beliefs and practices but wanted to make these





accessible to all. Tulsidas conceived God in the form of Rama. His unique creation Ramacharitmanas, written in Awadhi is an example.

- (iii) Surdas was an ardent devotee of Krishna. His compositions, compiled in the Sur sagar a, Sur asar a vali and Sahit ya Lahar i, express his devotion.
- (iv) Saints like Dadu Dayal, Ravidas and Mirabai are worth mentioning here. Mirabai was a Rajput princess who married into the royal family of Mewar in the sixteenth century. She became a disciple of Ravidas, a saint from a caste considered a disciple of Ravidas, a saint from a caste considered “untouchable”. She was devoted to Krishna and composed innumerable bhajans expressing her intense devotion.
- (v) A unique feature of most of the saints is that their works were composed in regional language and could be sung.

2. Describe the works of Baba Guru Nanak.

Guru Nanak (1469-1539) born at Talwandi (Nankana Sahib in Pakistan). He travelled widely before establishing a centre at Kartarpur (Dera Baba Nanak on the river Ravi). A regular worship that consisted of the singing of his own hymns was established there for his followers.

Irrespective of their previous creed, caste or gender, his followers ate together in the common kitchen (langar). The holy space thus created by Guru Nanak was known as dharmsal. It is now known as Gurudwara.

Before his death in 1539, Guru Nanak appointed one of his followers as his successor. His name was Lehna but later he came to be known as Guru Angad, representing that he was a part of Guru Nanak himself.

Guru Angad compiled the compositions of Guru Nanak, to which he added his own new script known as Gur mukhi.

The three successors of Guru Angad also wrote under the name of “Nanak” and all of their compositions were compiled by Guru Arjan in 1604. In 1706 this compilation was authenticated by his son and successor, Guru Gobind Singh. It is now known as Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of the Sikhs.

